

AGENDA

Meeting: Devizes Area Board
Place: Needham House, Victoria Rd, Devizes, SN10 1FA
Date: Monday 20 November 2023
Time: 6:30 pm

Including the Parishes of:

Bishops Cannings, Bromham, Bulkington, Cheverell Magna, Coulston, Devizes, Easterton, Erlestoke, Etchilhampton, Little Cheverell, Market Lavington, Marston, Potterne, Poulshot, Rowde, Seend, Stert, Urchfont, West Lavington, Worton.

The Area Board welcomes and invites contributions from members of the public. The Chairman will try to ensure that everyone who wishes to speak will have the opportunity to do so.

If you have any requirements that would make your attendance at the meeting easier, please contact your Democratic Services Officer.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Cameron Osborn, direct line 01225 718224 or email cameron.osborn@wiltshire.gov.uk

All the papers connected with this meeting are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225) 713114 / 713115.

Wiltshire Councillors

CLlr Iain Wallis, Devizes North (Chairman)
CLlr Dominic Muns, The Lavingtons (Vice-Chairman)
CLlr Simon Jacobs, Devizes South
CLlr Laura Mayes, Bromham, Rowde and Roundway
CLlr Kelvin Nash, Devizes East
CLlr Tamara Reay, Devizes Rural West
CLlr Philip Whitehead, Urchfont and Bishop Cannings

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Please see the agenda list on following pages for details of the items for discussion. The Area Boards welcome public participation and the Chairman will try to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate where possible. To discuss matters not on the agenda, please contact the officer named on the front page, ahead of the meeting.

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The full constitution can be found at [this link](#).

Our privacy policy is found [here](#).

For assistance on these and other matters please contact the officer named above for details

Area Board Officers

Strategic Engagement & Partnerships Manager (SEPM) –

richard.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk

Area Board Delivery Officer – caroline.lequesne@wiltshire.gov.uk

Democratic Services Officer – cameron.osborn@wiltshire.gov.uk

	Time
<p>1 Welcome</p> <p>To welcome those present to the meeting.</p>	18:30
<p>2 Apologies for Absence</p> <p>To receive any apologies for absence.</p>	
<p>3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (<i>Pages 1 - 8</i>)</p> <p>To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2023.</p>	
<p>4 Declarations of Interest</p> <p>To receive any declarations of disclosable interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.</p>	
<p>5 Chairman's Announcements (<i>Pages 9 - 24</i>)</p> <p>To receive the following announcements through the Chairman:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Visitor Scheme Update • Polling District and Polling Place Review 2023 – Consultation • Cost of Living Update • Wiltshire Council Archaeological Service Annual Newsletter 	
<p>6 Partner Updates (<i>Pages 25 - 70</i>)</p> <p>To receive updates from any of the following partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Police • Police and Crime Commissioner • Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service • Healthwatch Wiltshire • Community First • BSW Together (Integrated Care System) • Wiltshire AGE UK • Town and Parish Councils 	18:40
<p>7 Area Board Priority Update (<i>Pages 71 - 72</i>)</p> <p>To receive any updates from Lead Representatives of the Area Board priorities.</p>	19:15

8	<p>Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) (Pages 73 - 80)</p> <p>To consider the update and any recommendations arising from the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) meeting from 18 October 2023.</p>	19:25
9	<p>Air Quality and Sustainable Transport</p> <p>To receive any updates from the Devizes Air Quality and Sustainable Transport Group meeting on 9 November 2023.</p>	
10	<p>Area Board Funding (Pages 81 - 86)</p> <p>To consider the following grant applications:</p> <p><u>Community Area Grants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Busy Kids Outdoor Shelter - £2,000 towards new outdoor shelter • Worton & Cheverell FC - £500 towards football goal posts • The Patch, Potterne - £5,000 towards establishment of building as community asset <p><u>Youth Grants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devizes Netball Club - £1,432 towards coaching equipment and venue costs <p><u>Older and Vulnerable Adults:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devizes Men’s Shed - £270 towards first aid training. 	19:30
11	<p>Open Floor and Group Discussion</p> <p>To ask questions and discuss local issues.</p>	20:00
12	<p>Urgent items</p> <p>Any other items of business which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.</p>	
13	<p>Date of the Next Meeting</p> <p>To confirm the date of the next meeting as 26 February 2024.</p>	20:30

MINUTES

Meeting: Devizes Area Board
Place: Assembly Room, Needham House, Devizes, SN10 1FA
Date: 11 September 2023
Start Time: 6.30 pm
Finish Time: 8.32 pm

Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Ben Fielding, (Tel): 01225 718224 or (e-mail) benjamin.fielding@wiltshire.gov.uk

Papers available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

In Attendance:

Wiltshire Councillors

Cllr Iain Wallis, Devizes North (Chairman), Cllr Dominic Muns, The Lavingtons (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Simon Jacobs, Devizes South, Cllr Laura Mayes, Bromham, Rowde and Roundway, Cllr Kelvin Nash, Devizes East, Cllr Tamara Reay, Devizes Rural West, Cllr Philip Whitehead, Urchfont and Bishop Cannings

Wiltshire Council Officers

Richard Rogers, Strategic Engagement Partnerships Manager
Caroline LeQuesne, Area Board Delivery Officer
Dominic Argar, Assistant Multimedia Officer
Ben Fielding, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Andy Brown, Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive

Town and Parish Councils

Devizes Town Council

Partners

Police and Crime Commissioner – Philip Wilkinson
Wiltshire Police - Chief Constable Catherine Roper
Wiltshire Police – Inspector Ben Huggins
Opendoors – Noel Woolrych

Total in attendance: 42

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
32	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed those in attendance to the meeting.</p>
33	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Graham Martin, Chairperson of Sustainable Devizes and Mike Cleaver, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service.</p>
34	<p><u>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2023 were presented for consideration and it was;</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <p>To approve and sign as a true and correct record of the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2023.</p>
35	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of disclosable interest.</p>
36	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman of the Area Board made the following announcements, which were contained in the agenda pack.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Local Plan Review • Climate Emergency update - https://youtu.be/LP2FzC7rHSw
37	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>Updates were received from the following partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Police <p>The Area Board noted a written updates attached to the agenda. In addition, Inspector Ben Huggins provided a verbal update which covered the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An outline of the current Neighbourhood Policing Team was provided. • An overview of performance was provided, including Hate Crime and call statistics for Devizes. • There had recently been a slight rise in burglary levels, with a good proportion of these taking place in businesses and hospitals, with work being done with these organisations to provide support and prevention

	<p>advice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Speed Enforcement information was provided. • As per the report within the agenda supplement, an update was provided regarding the following local priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth Intervention ○ Safer Public Spaces and town centre PSPO application ○ Increase in police visibility ○ Drug use/supply <p>After the verbal update, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspector Huggins and his team were thanked for their work during Devizes Carnival. Additionally, thanks were placed for the policing team having a more noticeable presence as well as gratitude towards speed watch. • A plea was made to speed up the process of establishing a new speed watch. • Reference was made to multi-occupancy spaces and the responsibility of licencing such premises, with it suggested that a management meeting take place to discuss a particular multi-occupancy space within Devizes. • Clarity was provided as to how many police officers cover the Devizes area and the wider make up of the units available. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service The Area Board noted a written updates attached to the agenda. • Community First The Area Board noted a written update attached to the agenda. • Healthwatch Wiltshire The Area Board noted a written update attached to the agenda. • BSW Together (Integrated Care System) The Area Board noted a written update attached to the agenda.
38	<p><u>Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Update</u></p> <p>The Area Board received an update from Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Philip Wilkinson. The update covered the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work had been done to improve the service provided to residents of Wiltshire, with progress made with residents having reported seeing more officers and Police interaction. • The Police operational model had been improved with more officers now on the frontline to improve outreach as well as that two mobile Police stations had been funded. • It was highlighted that for high harm violence crimes, Wiltshire had previously been one of the lowest performing forces with a 2% success

rate, however this had now risen to 11% with the Chief Constable focused on driving performance.

- Regarding drugs and County Lines, collaborative work had taken place with all five Police forces across the Southwest, with all five of the forces now within the top ten performing forces nationally for County line disruption.
- It was outlined that the speed watch teams had been reorganised, with better use of data from SIDs now taking place, with 85 SIDs in 20 parishes, which allows for hotspots to be targeted. It was outlined that in 2021 Wiltshire Police had issued 192 speeding tickets, compared to this year where over 4,400 tickets had already been issued.
- The rural crime team had now been expanded to be double the size, with a piece of collaborative work with the other Southwest forces set to follow.
- More work was being done towards victim support, with the force looking to better engage with victims as well as preventative action.

The Area Board received an update from Wiltshire Police Chief Constable, Catherine Roper. The update covered the following matters:

- The responsibility of the Chief Constable was to deliver against the PCC plan, with Wiltshire Police placed into special measures “engage” in summer 2022.
- As part of being placed into “engage”, it was highlighted that Wiltshire Police had an insufficient strategic framework, they weren’t investigating to an effective standard and were not providing effective support for victims.
- As part of the work to rectify these issues, business as usual work was separated from the response to “engage”, as though the Police were busy, they had not driven things in the right way, with a need to get the fundamentals right and improve public trust, visibility and transparency.
- Business as usual prioritised to support to the PCC, working towards safer public spaces as well as violence and burglaries.
- Organisational priorities are now reviewed regularly as well as each Chief Officer having a performance improvement plan which is publicly available.
- To improve transparency the Chief also produces an open letter to the PCC to provide an update of what work has been completed.
- A recruitment campaign recently took place and uplift figures were met.
- Regarding “engage”, work has been completed to improve the processes in place as well as a review of the operating model to ensure that there is a focus on frontline workers, with employee feedback driving change.
- An improved audit and inspection routine is now in place for the police to test against improvements and respond to feedback; with call centres identified as an area that the force wants to improve.
- The Chief Constable attends a performance oversight group in London every 6 months, where she presents to the HMI and Home Office. The next meeting is next week and the update from this will be publicly

	<p>available.</p> <p>After the verbal update, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks were provided to the PCC and Chief Constable for their efforts towards speeding, particularly in rural parishes. • It was further emphasised that the process of setting up a Community Speed watch Team was long, and it would be appreciated if this process could be simplified. • Some parishes had encountered issues in downloading data from their SIDs, to which the PCC noted that he had created a video covering how to download data from SIDs, which could be found on the PCC website. • It was clarified that it was unlikely that the fixed safety cameras in Devizes would be switched on again due to being too predictable.
39	<p><u>Safer Streets Project Report</u></p> <p>The Area Board received a report from Jane Murray following the conclusion of the Safer Streets Project. The following points were covered during the item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Safer Streets project was a Home Office initiative which Wiltshire had place a bid towards part of a multi-agency project, with the main themes identified as being violence against women and girls, early intervention and anti-social behaviour. • Devizes had been chosen for the project due to information from the Police and local voices. • The work looked to identify objectives, consider what had already been done as well as what was known about the community, who's voices needed to be heard and how to hear them. • An overview of interventions and progress was provided, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Installation of additional CCTV cameras ○ Bystander intervention training and community mediation workshops ○ Parent mentors and parenting support ○ Diversionary activities such as a pop-up youth café. • The next steps for the project were outlined, with an evaluation session set to take place with a report to follow, with the learning set to be shared with the Devizes Area Board and Town Council. <p>After the verbal update, there was time for the following questions and points to be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Murray was thanked for her efforts and contributions towards the project. • Regarding the Bystander Intervention training, it was suggested that though it had not been well taken up, it would be rerun and potentially renamed as the work had been commissioned. • It was confirmed that for the next phase funding would be directed from the PCC office, however it was not certain if Devizes would receive any

	money.
40	<p><u>Youth Unemployment Update</u></p> <p>The Area Board received an update from the Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager (SEPM), Richard Rogers, on local youth unemployment data. The update included the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference was drawn to the report which had been included within the agenda pack, which featured statistics, information, and recommendations. • Factors which contribute to high youth unemployment were outlined. • An overview of local data was provided, with cause for concern highlighted, with Devizes having the highest proportion of working age adults and young adults experiencing unemployment in Wiltshire, amongst other local issues identified. • To improve local youth unemployment, a recommendation was included within the report. <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>Devizes Area Board agreed to create a working group consisting of key stakeholders such as those included in section 4 in order to take forward this work. The group would be led by Cllr Iain Wallis and Cllr Dom Muns given their respective area board priority leads.</p> <p>The working group would be accountable to Devizes Area Board and would regularly report back at the business meetings including any recommendations for interventions and requests for funding.</p>
41	<p><u>Area Board Priority Update</u></p> <p>It was noted that there were no verbal updates from Lead Representatives of the Area Board Priorities.</p>
42	<p><u>Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u></p> <p>Cllr Dominic Muns noted that following the LHFIG meeting held on 4 July 2023, there were no new recommendations to be approved by the Area Board. Cllr Muns outlined that there were currently 28 live projects taking place, including projects for speed restrictions, SIDs and numerous projects on accessibility including dropped kerbs.</p> <p>Cllr Muns outlined that the LHFIG was a group which looks at infrastructure improvements and that residents could take issues to their local town or parish council which could then be taken to the LHFIG, who have a pot of money which can be allocated towards improving local areas.</p>
43	<u>Air Quality and Sustainable Transport</u>

	<p>The Area Board received an update from Cllr Tamara Reay following the Devizes Air Quality and Sustainable Transport Group meeting on 7 September 2023. The update covered the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Group comprises of representatives from the Town Council as well as other town-based organisations with reps from other Parishes welcome to attend. • The next meeting would be on Thursday 9 November 2023. • A brief update of the highlights of the last meeting was provided, which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a drive to recruit Woodland Officers. ○ A Wiltshire Connect bus service has launched as well as an app. ○ It has been considered how various initiatives can be joined to improve air quality which has community ownership. ○ The LCWIP consultation has now finished. ○ EV Charging points are now in place at the Station Road Carpark.
44	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Area Board considered the following applications for funding:</p> <p><u>Community Area Grants:</u></p> <p>Seend Tennis Club - £5,000 towards resurfacing and renovation work.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>Devizes Area Board agreed to award £5,000 to Seend Tennis Club for resurfacing and renovation work. It was agreed that an initial payment of £3,000 would be made, followed by a further payment of £2,000, subject to balance.</p> <p>Moved – Cllr Tamara Reay Seconded – Cllr Philip Whitehead</p> <p>The Patch in Potterne Community Interest Company - £5,000 towards multi-purpose community centre.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>Devizes Area Board agreed to defer awarding grant funding to The Patch in Potterne Community Interest Company for a multi-purpose community centre, pending further information to support the application at the November meeting of the Area Board.</p> <p>Moved – Cllr Philip Whitehead Seconded – Cllr Tamara Reay</p> <p><u>Youth Grants:</u></p>

	<p>Market Lavington Community Hall Management Trust - £2,317 towards seated youth shelter and other external Works.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>Devizes Area Board agreed to award £2,317 to Market Lavington Community Hall Management Trust for seated youth shelter and other external Works.</p> <p>Moved – Cllr Dominic Muns Seconded – Cllr Kelvin Nash</p> <p>Bromham Youth Club - £3,031 towards youth club upkeep.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>Devizes Area Board agreed to award £3,031 to Bromham Youth Club for youth club upkeep.</p> <p>Moved – Cllr Laura Mayes Seconded – Cllr Dominic Muns</p> <p>West Lavington Youth Club - £5,000 towards youth club upkeep.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>Devizes Area Board agreed to award £5,000 to West Lavington Youth Club for youth club upkeep.</p> <p>Moved – Cllr Dominic Muns Seconded – Cllr Laura Mayes</p>
45	<p><u>Open Floor</u></p> <p>No questions for local Councillors were received.</p>
46	<p><u>Urgent items</u></p> <p>There were no urgent items.</p>
47	<p><u>Date of the Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The date of the next meeting is 20 November 2023.</p>

Area Board Briefing Note

Service:	<i>Voice and Participation</i>
Date prepared:	16/10/2023
Further enquiries to:	Sue Nash
Direct contact:	Sue.nash@wiltshire.gov.uk

Independent visitors (IVs) are adult volunteers who provide independent, one-to-one befriending support to children in care. Their role is to "visit, advise and befriend" the young person with whom they are matched.

The 1989 Children Act made it a duty for Local Authorities to provide IVs for those young people living in care who have little or no contact from their parents or family. In 2008, the Children and Young Person's Act extended this duty so that any young person in care could be eligible to have an IV, if considered to be in their best interests.

Current Status:

As of the most recent update, we have successfully matched 72 young people with independent visitors.

In Progress:

Additionally, there are currently 17 matches in progress, all of which are proposed to become active before Christmas. This will bring our total matches to an impressive 89. This remarkable increase of 21 matched young people in this financial year marks the second consecutive year of the most significant growth in our numbers, with the previous year seeing an increase of 10 matches. It's worth noting that this achievement is even more impressive when considering the 8 matches that are scheduled to close soon.

National Context:

Nationally, our success is measured against similar schemes by the National IV Network. Specifically, we are assessed based on the percentage of young people in care who are matched with an IV across the county. With 89 matches, our matched population will stand at 17.3%. To put this in perspective, the national average, as reported in the last Freedom of Information (FOI) report by the National IV Network, was only 3.3%. The highest matching percentage in England and Wales was 16%.

Future Projections:

In the coming months, four of our young people will reach the age of 18, causing a slight decrease in our matched population to 16.4% by the end of the financial year. Nonetheless, this remains a significant achievement and showcases our dedication to making a difference in the lives of care-experienced individuals.

Impact on Waiting List:

An essential outcome of these matches is the reduction of our waiting list. As more young people are matched with independent visitors, our waiting list is projected to decrease to 22 individuals. This will mark the lowest number of individuals on the waiting list since we began keeping records.

Promotion of the IV Scheme:

We encourage the Area Boards to actively promote the IV Scheme by directing prospective volunteers to our website: [Independent visitor scheme - Wiltshire Council](#). This will help us continue our mission to provide meaningful support to young people in care and achieve our goals of positive social change.

Conclusion:

Our remarkable increase in matched young people, high matching percentage, and the decrease in our waiting list demonstrate our commitment to making a difference in the lives of care-experienced individuals. We look forward to your continued support and engagement in promoting the IV Scheme.

Area Board Briefing Note

Service:	Electoral Services
Date prepared:	27 September 2023
Further enquiries to:	pollingreview@wiltshire.gov.uk
Direct contact:	Caroline Rudland/ Liv Maybank

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023 - Consultation

Wiltshire Council is carrying out a review of the polling districts and polling places in Wiltshire, as we are required to do by law.

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a duty on Local Authorities to 'carry out and complete' reviews of polling districts and polling places every five years. The next review must be completed between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025.

The purpose of the review is to ensure that all polling districts and polling places are, as far as possible, suitable and accessible to all voters.

Polling districts

The Council is responsible for dividing its area into polling districts for the purpose of UK Parliamentary elections. The arrangements made for the UK Parliamentary elections are also used at all other elections and referendums. Each parish, unless there are special circumstances, must be a separate polling district. When designating polling districts, we seek to ensure that all the electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as far as is practicable.

Polling places

A polling place is the designated area, polling district, or building in which polling stations will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer.

Polling stations

The polling station is the physical place in which polling takes place. The (Acting) Returning Officer decides on the location of the polling stations.

Steps for this review

The public consultation period will commence on the 2 October 2023 and will end on the 31 October 2023.

A webpage has been set up providing further information including:

- A list of current polling arrangements by unitary division area including the (Acting) Returning Officers comments and proposed changes
- An interactive map to view existing arrangements and any proposed changes
- An online form to make comments/representations.

Please note the review cannot consider changes to a parliamentary constituency, Wiltshire Council unitary division or parish and parish ward boundaries.

The review will be based on current constituency boundaries but will also have regard for the new parliamentary constituencies. The new boundaries will take effect for the next parliamentary elections that must be held before January 2025.

The final recommendations will be considered by the Electoral Review Committee in Mid November 2023 and, if approved will be implemented for the 1 December 2023 register of electors.

Timeline for the review

Date	
2 October 2023	Formal notice of the review
2 October 2023	Publish (Acting) Returning Officer's comments
2 October 2023	Commencement of public consultation period
31 October 2023	End of public consultation period
Mid November 2023	Final proposals considered by Electoral Review Committee

Commenting on the review

Representations can be made via:

- Online response form on the website:
<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8167/Polling-District-and-Polling-Place-Review-2023>
- Emailing: pollingreview@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Or by post to:

Polling Review, Electoral Services, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge BA14 8JN

Area Board Briefing Note – Cost of Living Crisis

Service:	Executive Office/Leader of the Council
Date prepared:	September 2023
Further enquiries to:	Will Oulton
Direct contact:	William.Oulton@Wiltshire.gov.uk

Introduction

Cost of Living issues remain a concern for the Council, our partners and the communities we serve. I am proud of the way we have worked, flexibly, bringing together different services and schemes to provide support. We don't know yet the exact nature of the ongoing challenges, nor the support that central government will provide, but I am confident that we will be able to respond quickly, as we have done before, to this changing environment.

Following on from the [update](#) I gave Cabinet before the summer, and before talking about the future, I wanted to highlight some of the work that has been undertaken over the last year, and crucially the impact that this has had on individuals:

- Warm & Safe Wiltshire

The Boiler fund project supported a family to replace an oil fuelled heating system that had broken where the family was in receipt of Universal Credit and Disability benefits. The replacement was crucial as the child was homeschooled, and the cold was impacting on the families mental and physical health.

After the work was completed, the parent told officers:

“You have given us the best quality of life – I cannot thank you enough. The whole house is lovely and warm, we can completely relax and enjoy it. I didn't realise the impact it was having on my mental health, worry about my son’.

- Libraries

Colleagues in the Data & Insight team analysed feedback collected by Libraries staff to identify the key themes, including that:

Libraries has created a Warm and inviting atmosphere creating a positive customer experience, which could make it easier to access to information.

Gratitude for warm spaces and warm packs provision for the public.

- Boater and Traveller Winter Support Project

Public Health secured funding from the UK Shared prosperity fund and in partnership with Julian House identified boaters and travellers who needed urgent winter support at a time when there was no government funding to support this group. The fund allowed people to receive a mixture of fuel and food vouchers. The following testimony, given to officers, shows the impact it had on one family:

A single parent with a 17-month-old baby girl, they previously worked as a carer and were determined to return to work. They were able to find employment, however after paying for childcare and travel

cost, they were only earning the equivalent of £3 per hour. The winter allowance helped them maintain this work over winter whilst providing a warm environment for them and their baby and enabled her to gain promotion.

Household Support Fund 2023-24

As reported previously to [Cabinet in March](#), the Council has been allocated £5,457,313 from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). This next tranche of the Fund has been provided to support households, who would otherwise struggle to buy food, pay essential utility bills or meet other essential living costs to help them with significantly rising living costs for the financial year 2023-24.

The Council has learnt a significant amount about how to best utilise this funding, and services across the council will be delivering those most in need to combat food and energy poverty. I am very pleased to say, the charities and the voluntary sector in the county have been successful in bidding for funds from the scheme, to enable them to deliver support to the homeless, older people and those facing domestic violence amongst others. This is a real example of partnership working at its best, and you can read more about [what schemes the HSF supports](#) on our webs.

Libraries and Warm Spaces

I am pleased to confirm that all of our libraries will continue to provide a warm welcome over the Autumn and Winter and will be places where Warm Packs will be distributed from October onwards.

FUEL

You will no doubt have heard of the challenges our established FUEL programme faced when a provider pulled out shortly before the summer holidays. I commend the hard work of the officers involved to find alternative providers to ensure that children received healthy food and activities across the summer holidays.

EBSS Scheme

Officers have made the final payments under this government scheme. Stand ready to support the government should another scheme be available, and we hope to make this clear to our local MPs should the opportunity arise.

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller & Boater Communities

Many in this community are not eligible for government schemes, with a most not meeting residency requirements event with recent expansions. I am, then, pleased to see that Public Health, working with outreach charity partners, will be providing fuel/food vouchers and energy saving advice from November.

For the future

I am pleased that officers who have been coordinating work, will continue to meet regularly to horizon scan and respond to future issues.

As well as the plans highlighted already, officers will be updating the community directory to ensure that local people can find warm spaces and food providers in their community. This should be updated in the next few weeks.

As part of the 1st tranche of the HSF programme, just over £100,000 has been invested in 19 different food settings with the 2nd tranche opening around Christmas time with, approximately, another £100,000 remaining.

I was pleased to report to Cabinet previously that Area Boards had chosen to support schemes in their areas that addressed the Cost of Living issues in their area, and I hope that they will continue to do so. I will, of course, keep the Cabinet updated.

ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

WELCOME TO WILTSHIRE COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE'S FIRST ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

The Archaeology Service identifies, records and protects the archaeology of all of Wiltshire, including Swindon wshc.org.uk. We provide archaeological advice mostly through the planning system, but also to landowners, universities, local groups and societies, and to the public. We also seek to inform on and promote the archaeology of the County. Our newsletter therefore aims to provide accessible and readable information about the work of the Service and some of the more notable archaeological and historical discoveries within the County in the last 18 months or so. There is also an annual Archaeology in Wiltshire conference in the spring. Keep an eye on the Wiltshire Museum's website for further details.

In this edition we have included recent archaeological projects in the County and within Swindon Borough Council that have resulted from our advice and guidance, as well as information about our Historic Environment Record, the Wiltshire Buildings Record, the Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site Co-ordination Unit and the work of Wiltshire's Finds Liaison Officer.

Our team is based in the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham. This state-of-the-art, purpose-built, records office was opened in 2007 and cost £11 million, but it has brought together the archives service, local studies library, conservation and museums advisory service, archaeology and Wiltshire Buildings Record under one, modernist, roof.

The Archaeology Service holds thousands of archaeological reports, aerial photographs and other records, all of which may be accessed by prior appointment. Just email us in advance at archaeology@wiltshire.gov.uk
We hope you enjoy our newsletter.

Archaeology Service
Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre
Cocklebury Road
Chippenham
Wiltshire SN15 3QN



TOP
The Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Chippenham. Home of the Archaeology Service.
© Wiltshire Council

LEFT
Some of the Archaeology Service team at Stonehenge.
© Wiltshire Council

BOTTOM
The fine farmhouse at 41 Green Road, Swindon.
© Wiltshire Buildings Record



'SEEING THE MONUMENTS FOR THE TREES' – A PROJECT TO CLEAR VEGETATION FROM THREE OF WILTSHIRE'S ANCIENT MONUMENTS.



TOP: Cam's Hill ringwork before clearance looking towards Malmesbury. © Aerial-Cam. Reproduced with kind permission.

BOTTOM: Cam's Hill ringwork after clearance. © Aerial-Cam. Reproduced with kind permission.

Wiltshire has some of England's most important and well-known ancient monuments. Many are designated as Scheduled Monuments, meaning they are legally protected due to their historical and archaeological importance. However, sometimes they can be harmed by natural processes such as tree and scrub growth, and burrowing animals, which can damage important buried archaeological remains and hide our history from view.

Last winter a community project, funded by Historic England, was organised by the Archaeology Service to remove the scrub over three of Wiltshire's ancient monuments. The first monument was an Early Bronze Age (1,800 – 1,500 BC) disc barrow, a rare monument type, on Burderop Down, near Chiseldon, Swindon. Large hawthorn bushes were removed from the monument so that it can now be seen in all its glory.

The second monument was a ringwork at Cam's Hill which is thought to be one of several siegeworks around the town of Malmesbury during the 'Anarchy' period, when Stephen and Matilda contested the succession to Henry I in the 12th-century. The monument has a 1.5m deep and 4m wide external ditch and a distinctive horseshoe shaped internal bank, 18m wide and around 1.8m high. It has never been excavated, although it bears close similarity to other monuments of this period in the south of England. Vegetation was cleared by volunteers in January and March 2023 and so the monument is now far more visible to those passing by on the adjacent public footpath. It is now hoped that livestock will graze the monument and deter re-growth.

The third monument was a group of four medieval lynchets at Southmill Hill, Amesbury, which survive remarkably well and are prominent features on the periphery of Amesbury. The lynchets are medieval in date and result from deliberate terracing of the steep hillslope for cultivation. The monument has been in steady decline for several decades due to unchecked scrub and tree growth, so over two days in February, volunteers, including the local scout group, cleared the scrub from one of the lynchets. It is hoped that the clearance work will recommence in autumn 2023.

The project was a great success and achieved what it set to do. As well as removing the risk of damage to these monuments from unruly scrub, all three monuments are now significantly more visible to those using public footpaths and other public rights of way. Thirty-eight volunteers participated in the project, and they all enjoyed the experience. The Archaeology Service therefore hopes to identify further monuments for clearance in the next few years...so if you would like to volunteer, we would love to hear from you!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Archaeology Service at archaeology@wiltshire.gov.uk

BELOW: Volunteers at Southmill Hill, Amesbury. © Wiltshire Council.



THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE MARKET TOWN OF CALNE IS REVEALED.

Wiltshire is blessed with many historic towns and Calne is a particularly interesting example, lying on the A4, a major route to the west country before the M4 was built. The town was probably best known until the late 20th-century as the home of Harris' bacon factory which dominated the centre of the town until it was demolished in the mid-1980s. Documentary sources indicate that the town probably had Saxon origins and was a borough by the time of the Domesday Book in the 11th-century. It was an established town by the medieval period.

Archaeological evidence for the origins and historic development of the town has proved to be elusive, partly because there have been few opportunities for larger-scale archaeological investigations within the town. The demolition and redevelopment of Harris's bacon factory in the 1980s was not accompanied by any archaeological investigation, despite its location in the heart of the town.

The proposed redevelopment of a parcel of land to the rear of the Nos 8 – 13 High Street therefore provided just that opportunity. Exploratory archaeological investigation in 2016 demonstrated that medieval remains survived on the site and a detailed archaeological excavation was undertaken late in 2021 by Worcestershire Archaeology on behalf of Churchill Retirement Living.

The excavation identified a large Late Saxon (9th – 10th-century) boundary ditch, along with some lesser ditches. These are notable discoveries as it was presumed that the focus of the Saxon settlement lay around the Church of St Mary. Probably in the 11th-century, the boundaries within the site were re-aligned with the laying out of burgage plots for the medieval town, running back from the High Street. The site lay too far to the rear of the High Street to reveal the properties that the burgage plots served, but these back plots did reveal rubbish pits filled with medieval waste material. This included sherds of medieval pottery dating from the 11th- to the 15th-century and probably all locally made at kilns in Minety, Lacock and Crockerton. A notable find was a lead seal matrix, used for sealing important documents, probably reflecting the commercial use of the properties on the High Street. The remains of a lime kiln were also revealed and probably served in the construction of stone properties on the High Street.

The site was remodelled again in the 17th- and 18th-century as the fortunes of the town improved, largely based on the weaving industry, until the town became synonymous with pork and bacon with the opening of the Harris factories in the 19th- and 20th -centuries.



TOP RIGHT: Harris' bacon factory, Calne in 1924. © Historic England.

RIGHT: General view of the excavation at 8 – 13 High Street. © Worcestershire Archaeology, reproduced with kind permission.

ABOVE: The medieval lime kiln under excavation. © Worcestershire Archaeology, reproduced with kind permission.

With every historic building, the same question comes up at the end, how do you date it? When Wiltshire Buildings Record started in 1979 there was little to go on. The few books about vernacular architecture covered buildings in other parts of the country. We had help from the Salisbury office of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments but apart from emergencies they were recording only in the south-east of Wiltshire and buildings there had different characteristics from the north and west of the County. Since then, studies of vernacular architecture have increased enormously, especially, since 2009, with the assistance of tree-ring dating or dendrochronology.

The Wiltshire Dendrochronological Project started through funding provided by English Heritage (now Historic England) to train someone in the work. There were existing projects in Hampshire and Somerset which were well advanced, and Wiltshire was known to have similarly early buildings worth sampling. We already had a list of suitable medieval buildings and the project aimed to concentrate on base cruck, cruck and other early carpentry methods. This was Phase 1 of the project and we have now reached Phase 5 thanks to funding from various sources.

The results have been interesting. Overall, they have confirmed the dates we had assigned based on stylistic and documentary grounds. But they have often narrowed them down and highlighted the significance of small changes of carpentry method. There have been disappointments where the timber turned out to be elm rather than oak or came from fast-grown oak trees with a small number of wide rings which could not be matched with the master sequence.



Two former farmhouses in the Swindon area, both cruck-built, illustrate the highs and lows of the outcomes. Studley Grange Farm, Lydiard Tregoze, was brought to our attention in 2021 in a derelict state. Three of our members had a look at it and reported finding a cruck truss despite its listing as late 18th-century. As a threatened building we gave it priority. Robert Howard and Alison Arnold from the Nottingham Lab gamely tackled it for us bringing a generator to power their drills. Sadly, the oak timbers of the crucks were quick grown though dates were provided for the addition of a dairy wing in 1606 and a re-used collar of 1559-84 looked likely to come from the initial ceiling of the open hall. There is documentary evidence that the farm was a grange of Stanley Abbey at Bremhill and it was first mentioned in 1460. Robert and Alison had managed to get into the roof on the far side of the cruck truss and their photo of the joint at the apex suggests construction in the 15th-century is likely.

No. 41 Green Road, Stratton St. Margaret, was a reserve building on the day that Studley Grange was sampled so for that reason it was high on the list for future sampling. This former farmhouse had been visited briefly by our Principal Buildings Historian, Dorothy Treasure. We were not very hopeful of a good result as crucks in the Swindon area have proved before to be of elm or quick-grown oak. To our (and the owner's) amazement the lower parts of two cruck trusses dated from 1271-1296. They had been used again in a wider building with new upper parts and purlins etc in 1339-1355. This is a star building, quite exceptional, and shows just how valuable tree-ring dating can be.



The Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (HER) consists of a database with integrated digital mapping that holds information on all the currently known archaeological and historical monuments for the County – a fantastic resource. It contains records of over 50,000 monuments, including earthworks, finds spots, and historic buildings, and contains information about all types of archaeological investigations, as well as various sources such as aerial photographs.

To give a taste of what the HER holds, this article explores some of the notable records for the town of Corsham. Starting in the centre of the town at The Corsham School, aerial photographs of 1946 show the current School playing fields under allotments (HER record MWI74074), created as part of the 'Digging for Victory' campaign introduced in 1940. To the west of the School is Hatton Way, named after Sir Christopher Hatton, a favourite courtier of Elizabeth I. Sir Christopher, when expressing devotion for his queen, always signed his letters with a hat drawn over the word 'on'. Hatton spent about four years at Corsham House (MWI34260), now Corsham Court, a Grade I listed Elizabethan country house. Unfortunately, financial problems caused him to sell up!

Halfway down Hatton Way is the site of Purleigh Barn (MWI65896), a demolished 19th-century outfarm of regular courtyard plan. The farmstead and all its historic buildings have been lost. The Wiltshire and Swindon Farmsteads and Landscapes Project Report summarises the results of mapping the historic character and survival of more than 4,000 farmsteads and 2,700 outfarms and field barns in Wiltshire, all mapped onto the HER. Knowledge and protection of the surviving historic farmsteads is essential if they are to be retained as a distinctive part of the rural landscape of the County.

Another notable Corsham building is the 'Pepper Pot', a Grade II listed toll house (MWI34400) on the A4 Bath Road. This pretty building was also once a sweet shop and is now a summerhouse. To the north of the A4 Bath Road, exploratory archaeological investigation in 2016 found a Neolithic (4,000 – 2,000 BC) pit (MWI76326), containing fragments of pottery. The field also contains evidence of ponds but the most exciting feature here lies underground. This is the former stone quarrying tunnel which probably ran from Hartham Park Quarry, sometimes known as the Pickwick Quarry. Bath Stone, a warm, honey-coloured limestone, has been desirable since Roman times and Brunel's cutting of the Box Railway Tunnel, close to Corsham, revealed a rich seam of high-quality stone. The Corsham mines were extensively worked with miles of tunnels, chambers, and air shafts, and became the ideal underground storage location for the War Office during the Second World War and of further use during the Cold War (MWI31707). One of the ventilation shafts for the tunnels can still be seen above ground. So why not explore our HER for the area around where you live in Wiltshire. Visit our [website](#) or contact us at archaeology@wiltshire.gov.uk for more information.



TOP RIGHT: The derelict Studley Grange farmhouse, Lydiard Tregoze. © Wiltshire Buildings Record.



TOP LEFT: Cruck visible on the landing of Studley Grange farmhouse. © Wiltshire Buildings Record.

LEFT: Joint where 14th-century upper timbers cap a 13th-century cruck, all smoke-blackened, at 41 Green Road, Swindon. © Wiltshire Buildings Record.



TOP RIGHT: Corsham Court. Image reproduced by kind permission of the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre.

LEFT: The Grade II listed 'Pepper Pot', an 18th-century toll house. © Wiltshire Council.

RIGHT: A ventilation shaft serving the underground Pickwick Quarry. © Wiltshire Council.

AN IMPORTANT BRONZE AGE BURIAL GROUND AT NETHERHAMPTON ROAD, SALISBURY



Aerial photography has shown that several ring ditches exist in a short stretch of the Nadder Valley between Harnham and Netherhampton. Some 35 ring ditches have been identified, and more are sure to exist, located both on the valley floor, as well as the valley slopes. Their mounds have long since been denuded, but what survives still retains valuable archaeological information about the practice of burial in the earlier Bronze Age (2,200 – 1,500 BC).

Proposed residential development immediately west of West Harnham has provided the opportunity to investigate archaeologically several of these barrows and Cotswold Archaeology and Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) have been doing just that over the winter of 2022 and into early 2023.

MOLA excavated a double ring-ditch and a second adjoining ring-ditch. Interestingly these monuments were located on the floor of the Nadder Valley. In the heavy winter rain, the barrow got close to being flooded but it seemed to occupy, probably intentionally, a slight gravel rise so that it stayed just above the flood level. The excavations revealed large graves in the centre of each ring-ditch, both of which contained the skeleton of an individual. The graves were of considerable size, far larger than was needed to bury the one individual. Samples from the fill of the grave may tell us if there was a reason for that and if there was other material buried in the grave that has not survived to the present day, such as wood or organic material.



However, one of the burials was accompanied by a very fine pottery vessel, a highly decorated Beaker. These vessels are attributed to a migrant population that arrived in Britain around 4,500 years ago bringing with them new burial practices and these distinctive pottery vessels. It is hoped that this particularly fine example will go on display in Salisbury Museum.

Meanwhile on the opposite side of the Netherhampton Road, Cotswold Archaeology on behalf of their client, Vistry Group, has been excavating a group of five ring-ditches or barrows that form a barrow cemetery just at the base of the valley side. The barrows are marked by their different size, the width and depth of the ring-ditches, and the presence or absence of graves within or adjacent to the barrows. One grave within one of the barrows contained a fine and rare food vessel with a small handle, while one grave just outside of one barrow contained five individuals, an adult and four infants, all very tightly grouped. The implication is that they died in a single catastrophic event and analysis of the human remains will elucidate why they died and

their relationship to each other, as well as to other individuals buried in the other barrows.

Most unexpectedly, the excavation has also revealed an Early Saxon (5th – 7th-century AD) waterhole, as well as a smattering of Saxon pottery. It is not unusual for later Saxon burials to be inserted into or around the mounds of Bronze Age barrows, although at Netherhampton Road, it is not clear why this functional feature should have been placed here. That there were Saxons living nearby is attested by a very famous Saxon inhumation cemetery found in Harnham in the 19th-century. For the time being, the excavations at Netherhampton Road have been concluded. The long process of analysing the results is underway and will result in a publication that will reveal the details of this important excavation.

TOP LEFT: The Bronze Age barrows under excavation south of Netherhampton Road.
© Cotswold Archaeology, reproduced with kind permission.

BOTTOM LEFT: The central grave and burial from one of the barrows north of Netherhampton Road.
© MOLA, reproduced with kind permission.

ABOVE: A double-ditched barrow before excavation south of Netherhampton Road.
© Cotswold Archaeology, reproduced with kind permission.

MIDDLE LEFT: Beaker vessel grave good from one of the burials north of Netherhampton Road.
© MOLA, reproduced with kind permission.

BELOW: The Saxon waterhole with waterlogged timbers south of Netherhampton Road.
© Cotswold Archaeology, reproduced with kind permission.

Bronze Age burial mounds or barrows are one of the most common monument types to be found in Wiltshire, which, along with Dorset, probably has some of the densest concentrations of such monuments in the country. Many people will be familiar with the prominent barrow cemeteries set out on the chalk ridges all around Stonehenge which only add to the atmosphere of this most prehistoric of landscapes. Those barrows, with upstanding mounds still surviving, represent only the most visible of this monument type. Many more survive only as ring-ditches, the quarries from which the mounds were constructed, but where the mounds have long since been denuded by ploughing over centuries. Aerial photography and fortuitous discoveries have shown that these barrows, in the form of surviving ring-ditches, were constructed on a wider range of geologies and topographies and not just on the chalk downland.





In summer 2020 a mysterious hole appeared in a field close to the village of East Kennett, within the Avebury World Heritage Site, and was reported to the Archaeology Service. Being archaeologists, we are always fascinated to explore any such phenomena and so members of our team quickly went to the site and undertook an initial exploration. This found that the hole comprised a substantial pit, roughly circular, around 1m in diameter, and lined by four large blocks of unworked sarsen stone. The feature appeared to have a deliberate void, and was capped by other sarsens, two of which remained in place, while a third appeared to have collapsed into the pit, so revealing the presence of the feature. A flint blade and a rim of Roman greyware were recovered from the collapsed fill but were assumed to be incidental. The initial interpretation was that this was a prehistoric cist or burial chamber. Similar examples of sarsen-capped burials are known from the wider region.

Consequently, Historic England undertook geophysical survey of the site of the 'hole' and its surroundings in 2021 and identified other possible chambered features, along with several ditches belonging to a field or enclosure system, and two possible rectilinear buildings. Along with the possible cist, the possible buildings were of interest as they bore some resemblance to the plans of Early Neolithic houses.



A MYSTERY HOLE IN EAST KENNETT: A PREHISTORIC OR ROMAN OPENING INTO THE UNDERWORLD?

The site was of sufficient interest that Professor Josh Pollard of the University of Southampton's Department of Archaeology organised an exploratory excavation of the site in late summer 2022. Much interest centred on discovering the purpose of the feature that had created the mystery hole two years earlier. The excavations stripped an area around the hole and revealed the sarsen stones surrounding the rim and slumped into the pit. At this stage, the only way to find out what lay below the sarsen stones was to carefully lift and remove them. By this stage, interest in the story was such that it attracted the attention of Professor Alice Roberts and the 'Digging for Britain' team, who filmed the lifting of the sarsen stones (Series 10, Episode 4).

Once removed and after some more careful excavation down to a depth of 2m, it became clear that this feature was not in fact a prehistoric burial chamber but a natural sink hole, the upper portions of which had been modified in the Roman period. A sink hole is formed from the natural dissolving of the soluble chalk bedrock, creating a deep fissure or hole in the bedrock. The Romans had erected the sarsens on the inner edge of this natural feature perhaps partly to form a barrier to stop livestock and children from falling into it, but perhaps also to emphasise it, as an opening into the underworld. The project emphasises the uncertainty of archaeology. As Professor Pollard so eloquently put it, it is 'what makes archaeology a vibrant and unpredictable subject!'

TOP: The mystery hole at East Kennett as it first appeared in 2020. © Wiltshire Council.

LEFT: The sarsen stones after initial excavation by the University of Southampton. © University of Southampton. Reproduced with kind permission.

RIGHT: The 'sink hole' after excavation. © University of Southampton. Reproduced with kind permission.



SOME FINDS REPORTED TO WILTSHIRE'S FINDS LIAISON OFFICER



A notable feature of the Covid-19 pandemic was the increase in the number of people who took up metal-detecting as they sought new interests that could be undertaken individually and outdoors. Everyone taking up the pastime is encouraged to follow the Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales (2017), which sets out the legal requirements as well as more general guidance on accepted best practice [finds.org.uk](https://www.finds.org.uk). There is no doubt that the results of metal detecting have contributed significantly to our knowledge of the heritage of England and Wales. Much of this is due to the work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) which was established in the late 1990s. The PAS encourages the reporting of all finds of archaeological objects, whether through metal detecting or not and is not limited to items of precious metal. To date, the PAS has recorded over 1.6 million objects, which has provided an extraordinary insight into the study of archaeological objects and their distribution.

TOP: Late Bronze Age gold penannular ring. Reproduced by kind permission of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.
TOP RIGHT: Blue glass bead dating from anytime between the Iron Age and Late Saxon period. Reproduced by kind permission of the Sussex Archaeological Society.
RIGHT: 17th-century silver cufflink. Reproduced by permission of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.



Locally, the work of the PAS is overseen by Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) who receive, identify and record archaeological objects, plus deal with Treasure finds from England and Wales. Wiltshire has its own FLO and Sophie Hawke is based at Salisbury Museum and would be very glad to hear from you if you have any objects that you would like identified and reported on (pas@salisbury-museum.org.uk).

These are some typical finds from Wiltshire that have been reported over the last 18 months or so and they show the variety in age, type and material of object that are recorded. This complete gold or gold-plated penannular ring is of Late Bronze Age date (1150-750 BC). The object is oval and about 1.5cm across. The ring is mostly gold in colour, except for a brown band that appears to wrap around it. It is likely that this is the core of the object that has been heavily coated in gold and then filed away to leave the band. The ring's function remains uncertain, although it is likely that they were personal adornments, possibly worn on the ears or nose, rather than being hair-ornaments or items of exchange.

Not all objects reported are of metal. This beautiful, complete, annular, blue glass bead, around 1cm in diameter, dating from the Iron Age to early Medieval period c. 100 BC to AD 750, was found near Alderbury. This last object, found near Wroughton, is a silver cufflink, one element of a pair that would have been linked together. The cufflink, which is around 1.5cm in diameter, has stamped decoration of a pair of hearts side by side with a crown above. Cufflinks were introduced in England in the latter half of the 17th-century and those with this design are considered to have originally been produced to commemorate the marriage of Charles II to Catherine of Braganza in 1662 but continued to be used as a general symbol of love or marriage.





THE REMAINS OF OLD SARUM'S CATHEDRAL FOUND IN NEW SARUM'S CATHEDRAL CLOSE WALL

The Grade I Cathedral Close Wall in Salisbury started to be constructed in the later 13th-century but was not completed until the 15th- or 16th-century. It was built both as a defensive structure but also as a symbol of the status of the clergy and their lordship of the Close. It is known that permission was given in the 14th-century for stone from the Cathedral at Old Sarum to be used in the construction of the Close Wall and carved stone from the Cathedral can be seen on the Exeter Street face of the Close Wall in the form of stylised flowerheads.

The repair in 2022 of a short, leaning section of the Close Wall within the grounds of Bishop Wordsworth School along Exeter Street therefore provided the opportunity to examine its masonry makeup and to identify other masonry that might have been purloined from the old Cathedral at Old Sarum. The repair work was undertaken by the stonemasons of the Salisbury Cathedral Works Department under the watchful eye of Graham Keevil, Salisbury's Cathedral Archaeologist.

The exercise proved to be worthwhile as several pieces of very fine carved masonry were identified, mostly hidden and not visible on the face of the Wall. It also seems likely that even plain ashlar blocks came from the old Cathedral at Old Sarum. It seems odd today that, despite all the effort put into constructing a fine cathedral at Old Sarum, within a hundred years or so it was used as little more than a quarry for the construction of the Close Wall. However, it does add to the historical and archaeological importance of the Close Wall, which is also a strong architectural and aesthetic feature of the Close and the city landscape.



TOP LEFT: Salisbury Cathedral Close Wall under repair. © Wiltshire Council

TOP RIGHT: Carved stone, formerly part of the Cathedral at Old Sarum, built into the Close Wall along Exeter Street. © Wiltshire Council

MIDDLE RIGHT: Carved stone, formerly part of the Cathedral at Old Sarum, built into the Close Wall along Exeter Street. © Wiltshire Council

BOTTOM RIGHT: Carved stonework from Old Sarum Cathedral built into the Close Wall. © Wiltshire Council

Stonehenge, Avebury & Associated Sites were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) List in 1986 and was one of the UK's very first World Heritage Sites. Stonehenge is the most sophisticated prehistoric stone circle in the world, and Avebury is the largest. Both stone circles lie at the heart of prehistoric landscapes containing numerous impressive and amazingly well-preserved ceremonial monuments dating back over 5,000 years to the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Together they form a landscape without parallel.

To achieve World Heritage status, sites must define what makes them to be of Outstanding Universal Value, or internationally significant, and how they intend to protect and enhance this. This is achieved through the adoption of a WHS Management Plan. In December 2022 Claire Selman joined the Stonehenge & Avebury WHS Coordination Unit within the Wiltshire Council Archaeology team. The primary aim of the unit is to coordinate the delivery of the Stonehenge and Avebury WHS Management Plan. To do so, Claire works with over 25 partners, including national organisations such as the National Trust and English Heritage, and farmers and communities living within and surrounding the WHS.

Priorities within the [Management Plan](#) cover what may at first seem a surprising span of topics extending beyond archaeology to subjects including woodland management, dark skies preservation and arts projects. Together, the Management Plan's actions work to preserve the site's buried archaeology, relationship with the landscape and accessibility for visitors. No two days within the Coordination Unit are the same from meeting with partners viewing activity on site, to engaging with visitors at local events and organising Partnership Panel and Steering Committee meetings.

Claire recently spent some time exploring the WHS through the range of services available at the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre, which you can read about in a blog post [here](#). Her discoveries included viewing some of the 1,114 entries on the Historic Environment Record from Stonehenge and Avebury. Each record builds a picture of life across the ages on this site, from Neolithic flint tools to Bronze Age round barrows, Saxon pottery and more.

TOP: Stonehenge with a near Winter Solstice alignment, December 2022. © Wiltshire Council.

RIGHT: Attending Open Farm Sunday on the edge of Avebury WHS, June 2023. © Wiltshire Council.



The opportunity to support the management of these iconic sites has led Claire to discover even more about our County and its heritage, and there's a wealth of monuments to explore beyond the stone circles themselves. To help plan a visit to the World Heritage Site, Claire recommends the walking trails on National Trust's Avebury and Stonehenge Landscape pages and the historical information on English Heritage's Stonehenge pages.

There are currently 33 UK World Heritage Sites, and 1,157 in total globally. The UK's World Heritage Sites demonstrate the breadth of what World Heritage can be, from natural sites like the Lake District to industrial sites such as The Slate Landscape of Northwest Wales and even an entire city, Bath. Discover them all at: [UNESCO World Heritage Centre - World Heritage List](#) To find out more about the Stonehenge, Avebury & Associated Sites World Heritage Sites, visit our [website](#) and follow @StoneAveWHS on Twitter.

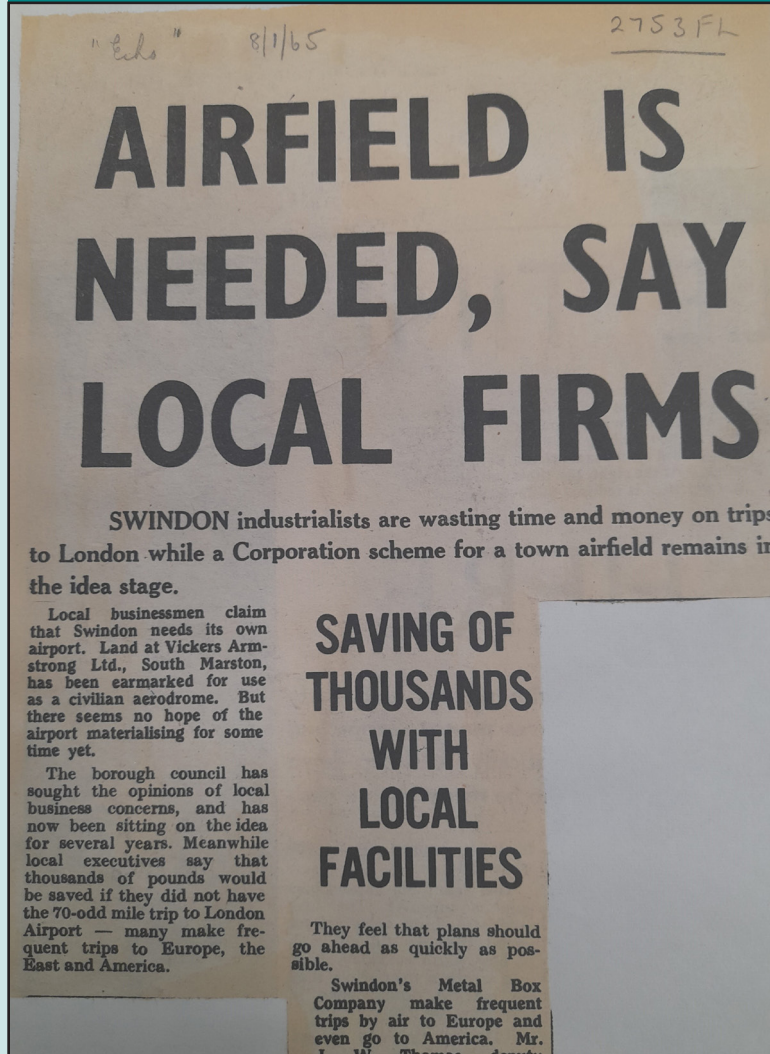


PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES – AN IMPORTANT SITE OF SWINDON'S 20TH-CENTURY INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE REVEALS ITS ANCIENT PAST.

In 1985 Honda started work on building their new car plant at South Marston, Swindon, providing a much-needed boost to the local economy and employment. The car plant itself replaced the site of an aircraft factory, first developed in the late 1930s as a 'shadow' aircraft factory, and then as an active manufacturing facility from 1940. South Marston Aerodrome was constructed at this time to serve in the Second World War. Phillips & Powis Aircraft Ltd, Short Brothers, and Vickers-Armstrong-Supermarine all produced aircraft at the site, including the iconic Supermarine Spitfire. Having been considered but been rejected as a possible municipal airport serving Swindon in the 1960s, the airfield came to end when Honda bought the site for their new venture. However, the runway still exists, running through the site, and was used by Honda as a test track. One of the attractions to Honda was the skilled engineer workforce of Swindon arising from its role in the railway industry. However, after 35 years, the Honda factory itself came to an end and the site is now being redeveloped again.

This redevelopment has provided the opportunity to explore the archaeology of the site preceding its 20th-century history. Remarkably, despite two significant phases of development to construct South Marston Airfield and then the Honda works, evidence for Late Iron Age (200 BC – AD 43) and Roman settlement, surrounded by extensive field systems, has come to light, some surviving under the airfield runway! Oxford Archaeology has been undertaking exploratory investigations and more detailed excavation at the site prior to development.

The evidence points to a small rural settlement that lies just off Ermine Street, the Roman road that links the local small town of Durocornovium (Wanborough) with the important regional centre of Corinium (Cirencester). The buildings might have been of slight construction and left little trace but finds of box tile, brick and tegula suggest a significant building lay nearby. A corn drier was found alongside some stone-lined pits, suggesting an area devoted to crop processing. Finds from the settlement include quern stones from grinding corn, whetstones for sharpening tools and two Roman shoes! The excavations are on-going and further discoveries are expected. The results will continue to add to the extraordinary history of this site on the edge of Swindon.



TOP: Newspaper cutting from 1965 about South Marston Airfield. © Swindon Echo, 8 January 1965. Reproduced by kind permission of the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, document reference 2753FL.

LEFT: Aerial view of Iron Age and Roman deposits under the runway. © Oxford Archaeology. Reproduced with kind permission.

ABOVE: Excavating an Iron Age feature. © Oxford Archaeology. Reproduced with kind permission.

The Police and Crime Commissioner's
ANNUAL REPORT
2022-23

Wiltshire and Swindon

pcc



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Foreword from Philip Wilkinson, Police and Crime Commissioner



Welcome to my Annual Report which I hope you will find informative as well as providing an insightful summary of the work undertaken by myself and my team during the 2022/23 financial year. It has certainly been another busy and productive year, with progress being made across all the priorities of my Police and Crime Plan 2022-25.

Since starting in this role, my mission, and that of my Office, has always been Making Wiltshire Safer – safer for all those who live, work and visit our county. I am totally committed to driving this mission throughout the remainder of my term as

I continue to deliver on the commitments that I have made to all residents.

While the Police and Crime Panel hold me to account, the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner is, on behalf of the residents of Wiltshire and Swindon, to hold the Chief Constable to account to maintain an effective, and legitimate, police force and the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan. This plan focuses on the priorities that you made me aware of through my many meetings with the public and our various survey feedback.

“ My mission has always been to make Wiltshire a safer place to live, work and visit. ”



The recruitment of a new Chief Constable was a conscious decision on my part to bring an experienced and senior chief officer to Wiltshire and I am pleased to be able to report that the actions Chief Constable Catherine Roper has been taking are delivering the necessary changes that we need to improve the performance of Wiltshire Police.

There has been a defined focus on quality of service, on driving performance, an increased focus on victims and quality of investigations to boost outcome rates. We have also seen a determined effort by the Chief to encourage leaders within the Force to take control and drive-up standards and for our communities to receive more visible, proactive policing.



There remains much work to be done and Chief Constable Roper has been detailing these improvements and actions in her fortnightly open letter to me, which she also shares with you - so you can hold us both to account.

I, and my strengthened team spent much of last year challenging the previous Chief Constable to empower and better support the front-line commanders and officers and which included putting in place a new hierarchy of leadership training courses.

Towards the end of last year and supported by the Government's 'uplift' in police officer numbers, we finally started to see some serious improvements in operational performance, and I am delighted to report that with Chief Constable Roper, and a restructured leadership team in place, these improvements are accelerating.

In summary, Wiltshire Police is an improving police force, which combined with the additional services commissioned by my office is an improving police service.

Collectively we are making considerable progress in many specialist areas of policing but we still have much more to do before Chief Constable Roper and I can be confident that we have the most effective operational processes in place to provide the policing service that our residents want and deserve.

It has taken nearly two years since I was first elected but I am now confident that working with Chief Constable Roper, and her new team, we will see positive progress when they are next assessed by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.

First and foremost, though, and more importantly than any inspection, I want Wiltshire Police, supported by my team, not only to continue to make Wiltshire safer but also for you, our residents, to feel safer in your communities too.

Only when we deliver that mission, and have earned the trust and confidence of you, our residents, will I be satisfied.

Philip Wilkinson
Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Commissioner

Police and Crime Commissioner **role**

As PCC, I ensure the public has a direct voice in policing and crime matters. I am also responsible for:

- Setting the strategy for policing and community safety through a Police and Crime Plan
- Commissioning a range of services to deliver the Police and Crime Plan
- Commissioning support services for victims of crime
- Setting the annual policing budget and the precept
- Providing a local link between police, local authorities, Wessex criminal justice, partner agencies and communities
- Consulting and engaging with members of the public, specifically victims of crime
- Maintaining an efficient and effective police force
- Holding the Chief Constable to account for the operational delivery of policing and the performance of the force
- Publishing an annual report reporting on progress made against the Police and Crime Plan
- Appointing, and if necessary, removing a Chief Constable
- Contributing to the response to national and regional criminal activity and threats as set out by the Home Secretary in the Strategic Policing Requirement.





Your Police and Crime Commissioner - find out about my role and work

I am keen that Wiltshire's residents can find out as much information as possible about the role of the PCC, my office and the work that is being carried out.

As well as sending regular updates to all parish council magazines, there are a range of options on my website where you can access the latest news and performance reports:

- » [Making Wiltshire Safer - Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025 \(office.com\)](#)
- » [Quarterly Performance Reporting \(wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)
- » [Philip Wilkinson - Choose My Police and Crime Commissioner \(choosemypcc.org.uk\)](#)
- » [Campaigns \(wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)
- » [Media releases - OPCC News \(wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)
- » [Area boards - Scheduled meetings - Wiltshire Council](#)
- » [Police and Crime Panel - Scheduled meetings and reports \(Wiltshire Council\)](#)

Our policing area

Surrounded by the counties of **Berkshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, and Somerset**

Two unitary authorities

Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council



Covers an area of almost **3,500 sq km**



Salisbury Plain

is the principal home and training ground for the armed forces



Oldest county force

in England - established on **13 November 1839**



Population of **726,951***

Swindon = 222,881 Wiltshire = 504,070* (*ONS 2020 estimates)*



2,298 employees

1,165 police officers, 122 PCSOs, 1,070 staff

Swindon

a vibrant town located on the M4 corridor, homes lots of national and global head offices



Historic monuments

such as Stonehenge, Avebury and the city of Salisbury

Has rural and market towns

Calne, Chippenham, Devizes, Marlborough, Malmesbury, Royal Wootton Bassett, Warminster and Trowbridge



Budget of **£134m**

Central grant **£73m**

Police council tax **£61m**



Wiltshire police demand:

More than **43,000** recorded crimes (pre-Covid)



More than **103,000** 999 calls

More than **268,000** 101 calls



11,000 victims of crime supported by PCC victim services

Making Wiltshire Safer: Police and Crime plan overview



Making Wiltshire Safer: Police and Crime Plan 2022-2025 was informed by you – our residents.

I consulted widely via the Use Your Voice survey, public discussion groups, with 462 responses from partners on behalf of large parts of our community, including MPs, local authorities, and councillors in Wiltshire and Swindon.

I listened to key stakeholders and partners, using Focus Group sessions including representatives from diverse communities and young people, and listened to the Chief Constable and colleagues within Wiltshire Police, before publishing my Plan, after approval from the Wiltshire and Swindon's Police and Crime Panel.

You told me that you wanted a police service which fights crime, prevents Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and drug-related activities in your communities, delivers improvements in road safety, tackles rural crime and reduces serious violence and domestic abuse.

These areas were important to you and my Police and Crime Plan has ensured that the strategic blueprint range of activities to achieve improvements have been carried out.

Since its publication in March 2022, I have continued to listen to the comments and ideas of Wiltshire and Swindon's communities, also drawing from a wide range of public surveys and crime data to shape delivery.

My mission has always been to make Wiltshire safer through the provision of a quality and efficient police service which tackles the crimes that matter most to our communities. My **Making Wiltshire Safer: Police and Crime Plan** sets out the direction for Wiltshire Police's focus and priorities from 2022 – 2025 to help to achieve this.

“ It is my job as Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure Wiltshire Police has the necessary resources to fight and prevent crime. ”

During the last year, our communities have reinforced the need for more frontline police officers – and I agree with them.



Using your support for a precept increase, Wiltshire Police has recruited additional police officers to help provide more visible policing in communities and quality investigations. Working with the Chief Constable, and on her operational advice, we will increase the total number of officers by 32 in the annual review of the current workforce mix.

These officers will bolster Wiltshire Police's work in the community, and crime investigation, and are in addition to the Uplift officers who are also coming through the recruitment and training pipeline into our communities, as well as specialist roles and the rural crime team. This will mean Wiltshire Police will better meet the needs of our communities.

The Plan has four priorities:

PRIORITY 1: Provide a police service that meets the needs of its community

Due to the government's uplift programme, we now have 150 more officers than two years ago – and the most police officers Wiltshire Police has had in more than a decade. This is alongside a new targeted operational model that places more officers in the neighbourhood teams and in the community.

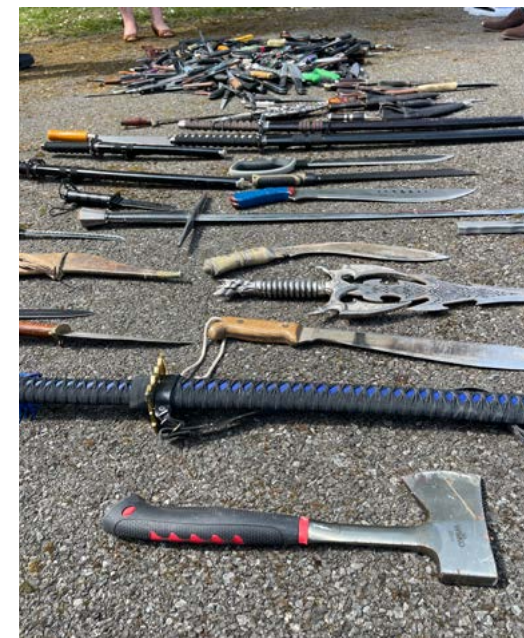
We also now have two mobile police stations to visit our smaller towns and villages where police stations have been closed and to improve the service we deliver. Wiltshire Police has two more mobile stations in the delivery pipeline and we hope these will be out in our communities soon.



We still have work to do to improve our response to 101 calls but that is a work in progress.



and the Force have significantly stepped-up targeted enforcement and disruption activity to target these offenders involved in gang violence. Following the government's establishment of the Serious Violence Duty, my office has been leading efforts to better coordinate the multi-agency response to knife crime in our communities, through the Community Safety Partnerships in Swindon and Wiltshire and invest the additional funding we have secured to divert those young people most at risk of serious violence and support those affected.



Op Sceptre: some of the knives surrendered

PRIORITY 2: Reduce violence and serious crime

Two years ago, the positive outcome rate for rape and serious sexual offences in Wiltshire were some of the worst in the country and less than 2%. The Force's positive outcome rate as of March 2023 is 22.6% which, while still too low, is an improvement I am determined to sustain, and I encourage any victims to please report any crimes to the Police.

The use of illegal substances is a complex and long-term challenge but Wiltshire Police is now the best performing force in the country per head of capita for county line drug disruptions and my office is working closely with partner agencies across the Combating Drugs Partnerships in Wiltshire and Swindon to help those affected by substance abuse by delivering high-quality treatment and recovery, as well as targeting the networks to reduce supply and demand.

There is understandable concern from communities about the rise in knife crime and serious violence, particularly by young people,



PRIORITY 3: Tackle crimes that matter to local communities

You asked me to focus on road safety, anti-social behaviour, and rural crime.



Wiltshire Police's approach to delivering road safety is a combination of education, effective enforcement, and deterrence.

In 2021, the Force issued a total of **192** enforcement tickets, referrals to court and speed awareness courses. As a result of significant investment, between the 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, this team undertook enforcement at **220** locations issuing **2,561** speed awareness course tickets, **330** fines and points and **44** court appearances.

A key commitment I made in my plan was to use data from community Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) to better inform and target the police's enforcement activities to areas of greatest risk and I am pleased to confirm that this is now happening.

You can keep up-to-date with where speed enforcement action is happening across our county by visiting my webpage – [Road Safety \(wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](http://wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk).

Tackling anti-social behaviour requires a comprehensive approach with local authorities and other partners, as many of the solutions and interventions are delivered by organisations other than the police. While the overall trend for anti-social behaviour is heading down, I recognise the impact this type of crime can have on individuals and communities, and I am pleased that where hotspots do emerge the police and local authorities are working together to tackle it swiftly.

Significant investment has been Op Galileo, which forms part of Wiltshire Police's Rural Crime strategic plan and is a national campaign which seeks to combat offenders poaching and hare coursing. My office has funded drones and night vision equipment to drive enforcement improvements. As a result, there has been a 55.5% reduction in hare coursing and a 64.3% reduction in poaching crime logs.



PRIORITY 4: Improving the experience of victims and delivering justice

My office commissions many of the services which support victims and using local funding, as well as money from the Ministry of Justice, we invested £2M in these services in 2022-23.

I chair the Wiltshire Criminal Justice Board which works to coordinate criminal justice services and improvements across the system, working with the Crown Prosecution Service, HM Courts and Tribunal Service, Prison Service, Probation Service, youth justice services, local judiciary, Legal Aid Agency, and the police.

2022 – 2023 Police and Crime plan progress update

Priority one



A police service that
meets the needs of
its communities

Recruitment of Chief Constable

I was delighted to appoint new Chief Constable, Catherine Roper, following a competitive recruitment process in February 2023. Appointing a Chief Constable is one of the most important decisions I will make while in office and I am grateful for the support of my office in bringing the comprehensive recruitment process to a successful conclusion.

We are fortunate to have secured such considerable policing experience and aptitude in Chief Constable Roper. Her focus and commitment to delivering a quality police service for the county's residents was evident and I was particularly heartened to hear the passion she will bring to improving the performance of, and confidence in, Wiltshire Police.





Uplift achieved

Wiltshire Police successfully increased its full-time equivalent police officer numbers to over 1,165 by March 2023 meeting the Government's national uplift campaign. I have also invested in additional officers and staff to ensure that Wiltshire's residents see an improved and more visible police service.

Annual drug offences crime volumes

There was a 10% decrease between April 2022 – March 2023 (1,109) and April 2021 – March 2022 (1,205). The national figures for crime disruption activity show Wiltshire Police are the top force in England and Wales for the past two years.

Mobile police stations

I approved investment for Wiltshire Police to purchase two further mobile police stations that will be active in rural communities and support night-time economy policing operations in our larger communities during certain weekends. They are equipped

and designed to replicate actual police stations, supporting neighbourhood policing officers further in their work protecting our communities.

HMICFRS vetting and misconduct

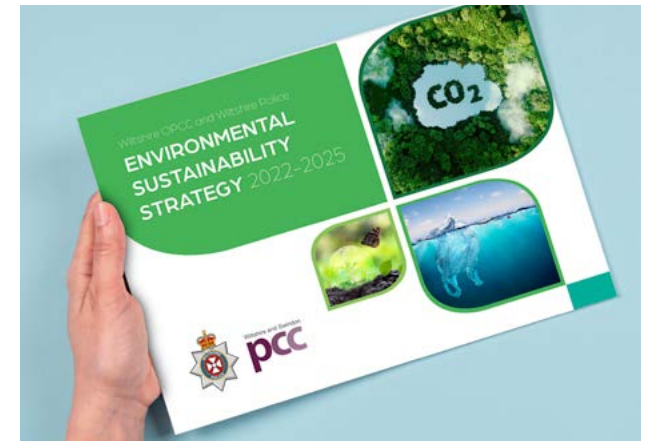
Together with Chief Constable Roper, I have reviewed all local standards and vetting policies to ensure they are fit-for-purpose. A comprehensive review of all existing misconduct cases has been completed by the Force. All Force staff and officers are being checked against national police data bases and I have taken the additional step to include all OPCC staff in this review.

Police training

My office commissioned an external review of Wiltshire Police training, receiving 80 recommendations for immediate actions to improve training and development for officers and staff. As a result, I approved investment of £1.2m to improve the training estate which includes new facilities and IT equipment, with the aim to significantly enhance the capability and quality of training the Force can deliver for staff.

Force and OPCC Environmental Sustainability strategy

We are focused on delivering reductions in emissions and reducing our impact on the environment. We have set our objectives inline with key government policies, and we are committing to refining our understanding of our environmental impact as an organisation and across our supply chains. We are working to increase our understanding and systems to monitor, and subsequently reduce our impact across our organisation and workforce.



Melksham custody refurbishment

I approved a £3.7M investment to fund refurbishment works within the custody suite at Melksham, including mechanical and electrical system upgrades, an improved air lock system, a more secure alarm network and a refresh of the custody desk, offices, and cells. The improvements will also meet Home Office compliance advice, as well as HMICFRS inspection criteria. This in turn will help to improve future Wiltshire Police PEEL reports and overall custody standards.

These works will ensure Wiltshire Police provides modern custodial facilities for improved detainee safety and better evidence collection opportunities to inform investigation and charge outcomes. The design also incorporates important improvements to the way in which detainees with neurodivergent conditions are managed whilst on custody. I am confident that all areas of policing will reap the benefits of this refurbishment project.



Tidworth police station

The new community police station in Tidworth replaces the town's ageing community centre and the old police stations in Tidworth, which was no longer fit-for-purpose for modern policing. The partnership with Tidworth Town Council is enabling the construction of a new police station, with an investment of £2M from the OPCC, with a better facility for people living in the local community, which will be more accessible and will create a better working environment for our officers and staff.



Southern policing hub

I am committed to a Safer South Wiltshire and have listened to residents' concerns, alongside the operational advice from Wiltshire Police. A public consultation event was held at Salisbury Guildhall 31 October, which more than 100 people attended in person. It is a key part of my Police and Crime Plan – and a core component of my Estate Strategy- to have major policing hubs to cover the north of the county, which is Gablecross in Swindon, and one in the south, in the Salisbury area. We have proceeded to explore several options for possible locations – and finances allocated within the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for investment.

Scrutiny panels

These panels are made up of local volunteers from a diverse range of backgrounds and experience. They meet regularly to review body worn video footage of the use of force and stop and search, and to monitor the use of Out of Court Resolutions by the police. The panel offers a public perception of policing, which is shared directly with officers, providing organisational learning and helping to improve procedural justice.

Priority two



Reduce violence and serious harm

Op Soteria

Part of the government's Rape Review, Operation Soteria is a Home Office-funded research and change programme which has developed a new national operating model for the investigation and

prosecution of rape and serious sexual assault. In March 2022 the Home Office announced Wiltshire Police would be included in phase two of Op Soteria, alongside Dorset and Hampshire forces. Op Soteria ensures every police force is focused - not only to improve the service victims receive - but to ensure everyone in the criminal justice system is working to improve charge rates and convictions, which have been appallingly low. These principles are perfectly aligned with the priorities within my police and crime plan.

Serious Violence

Tackling knife crime and serious violence is a key priority for Wiltshire Police, and they have undertaken significant enforcement activity across response to community concerns. The police approach is always intelligence led, and operations have been focused on high-harm causers – those individuals known to be part of gangs and most at risk of being engaged in serious violence or carrying bladed weapons.

Following the establishment of the Serious Violence Duty by the government in January 2023 my office has been leading the coordination of partner agencies from across policing, health, local government, justice and education to work with the community to tackle the root cause of knife crime. The OPCC has funded a number



of interventions and diversionary activities in partnership with other agencies to reduce young people's interaction with the criminal justice system.



These include 'PL Kicks' – a scheme run by Swindon Town FC Community Foundation in conjunction with the Premier League which uses football to engage young people between 8-18 years of age. It was set up in 2006 as a way of using football to engage young people and to try and tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour, youth violence and to improve community safety. The areas where the scheme is being delivered has seen an increase sports participation and a reduction in anti-social behaviour.

“

One of my friends told me about Foundation park on Fridays. Then Miss (his teacher) said that you could come every Friday. I told all my friends and I've been here for a year or two and it's a very good experience. I play with some of the olders as well and it's beautiful.

Joseph
PL Kicks Youth Member

”

“

I found out about PL Kicks after they posted an advert at New College. I made a few friends and now I come every Friday. Without those Friday sessions, I'd probably be at home playing video games or on the street doing something worse.

Honestly, it's amazing because you get your legs warm and your heart pumping – you feel alive.

Lenon
PL Kicks Youth Member

”

The OPCC has also provided funding to support the mobilisation of the nationally recognised 'Focussed Deterrence' model, which involves police officers working with Swindon Youth Justice Service in a multi-agency team to deliver engagement and enforcement interventions for those young people who are the greatest risk of committing serious offences. Street Doctors and the Blunt Truth are examples of educational interventions the OPCC are also funding with the Youth Justice Service to deliver emergency first aid training sessions which empower young people affected by violence to keep themselves and others safe.

Op Sceptre

In addition to these proactive operations and interventions, Wiltshire Police also undertake extensive community engagement, primarily through schools, as part of the national operation to reduce knife crime, Operation Sceptre. This involves the police conducting test purchase operations to ensure young people are not able to buy knives illegally, undertaking knife sweeps within the local community to recover discarded weapons



and placing amnesty bins in community locations to encourage the safe disposal of these weapons – since 2018 this has resulted in the removal of over 1,200 knives and blades from our streets.

Op Scorpion

Together with fellow Police and Crime Commissioners, and their respective Forces across the south west, we have collaborated on Op Scorpion to disrupt drug dealing, and associated crime, in our communities. Tackling drug-related crime, rooting out dealers and disrupting supplies of drugs onto Wiltshire's streets has been the direct result of a regional, co-ordinated, campaign led by the south west region's five Police and Crime Commissioners. Outcomes from the campaign are detailed on page 20.



Safety at Night Charter

My office launched the Safety at Night Charter across Swindon and Wiltshire in 2022 which is aimed at supporting local businesses across the night-time economy to reduce violence and help the public feel safer when out at night. Aimed at pubs, bars, restaurants as well as leisure and event venues and transport providers, the charter provides practical advice and guidance for businesses and their staff on establishing and maintain a safe space for everyone, but with a focus on women and girls as we know from our own survey that they are often disproportionately affected by crimes in these venues. More than 150 organisations have signed up across Wiltshire and Swindon

and this has been supported by proactive, high-visibility, policing operations, targeted in hotspots areas to tackle violence in the night-time economy and provide reassurance to the public.

Support for victims

Almost £900,000 of funding for victims in 2022-23 was utilised in the support of victims of sexual harm and domestic abuse across Wiltshire and Swindon with more than 4,000 victims of domestic abuse being supported by specialist services and 1,700 victims of sexual violence receiving dedicated support. During the year I worked with Wiltshire Council to recommission the domestic abuse service with increased referrals available to victims, and the provision of mental health support and a specialist team to support moving people into refuge accommodation. My office also worked with NHS England to recommission therapeutic interventions to support victims of child abuse.

FearFree

FearFree is an organisation working to break the cycle of domestic abuse and sexual violence. It brings together services for victims of Domestic Abuse and their families, providing a full range of services with a single, easy to use access point.



“

I've had the pleasure of working with several Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) over the last two years and they have all been extremely kind. As well as regularly checking in with me and keeping me updated, they helped my confidence grow.

”

“

An in-person group full of wonderful facilitators and participants. The group captured a lot of what we experience on the other side of trauma and used that knowledge to help us pursue our personal growth. The group was also done in a safe and calming environment. The facilitators were kind and knowledgeable and always available to listen.

”

Their professional, fully trained and hugely caring teams work across communities in the South West, providing personalised support services to help victims change or move on from abusive relationships, supporting people who have experienced sexual violence or stalking, supporting children and young people affected by abuse to move on with their lives and running voluntary programmes for perpetrators to help them change their behaviour.



Domestic abuse perpetrator programme

Through a progressive partnership approach between my office and the Probation Service we have launched a domestic abuse perpetrator programme delivered by the Integrated Offender Management Team within Wiltshire Police to comprehensively monitor 64 high-risk offenders in the community and custody and deliver behavioural change interventions designed to reduce their likelihood of reoffending.

Sexual Assault Referral Clinic (SARC)

This service offers immediate support to victims of recent or non-recent rape or sexual assault, offering confidential, practical and emotional support from a team of specialist staff. I was pleased that my office and NHS Southwest were awarded the “Best Procurement Delivery Award” for the recommissioning of this service in October 2022, following the launch of the new contract as it demonstrated our commitment to the quality of this service for victims and the importance of the support provided through every step of the process.

Sounds Like Women

Sounds Like Women is an organisation raising awareness about the most pressing issues for women, girls, their families and communities, including domestic abuse. The group's mission is to empower through music and a range of music services and community activities.



“

As a survivor of domestic abuse, I found the group when I was a shadow of my former self. I went along to the musical workshops, where through various exercises it helped me to find my voice... quite literally! Now I have the confidence speaking out something I wouldn't say before!

”

“

I was so very quiet and very withdrawn and I started doing the workshops. It was once a week and over a period of time, it gradually brought out the real me that was hiding inside, the one that had been scared away. And it literally, though music therapy, bought my voice back.

”

Starting Point mentoring pilot

My office has funded a pilot with Swindon Borough Council to deliver mentoring to 20 young people most at risk of entering the criminal justice system or being exploited through involvement in gang crime. This is focused particularly at those children attending EOTAS (Education Other Than at School) and I will fund a similar pilot in Wiltshire in 2023-24.



Operation Cavell

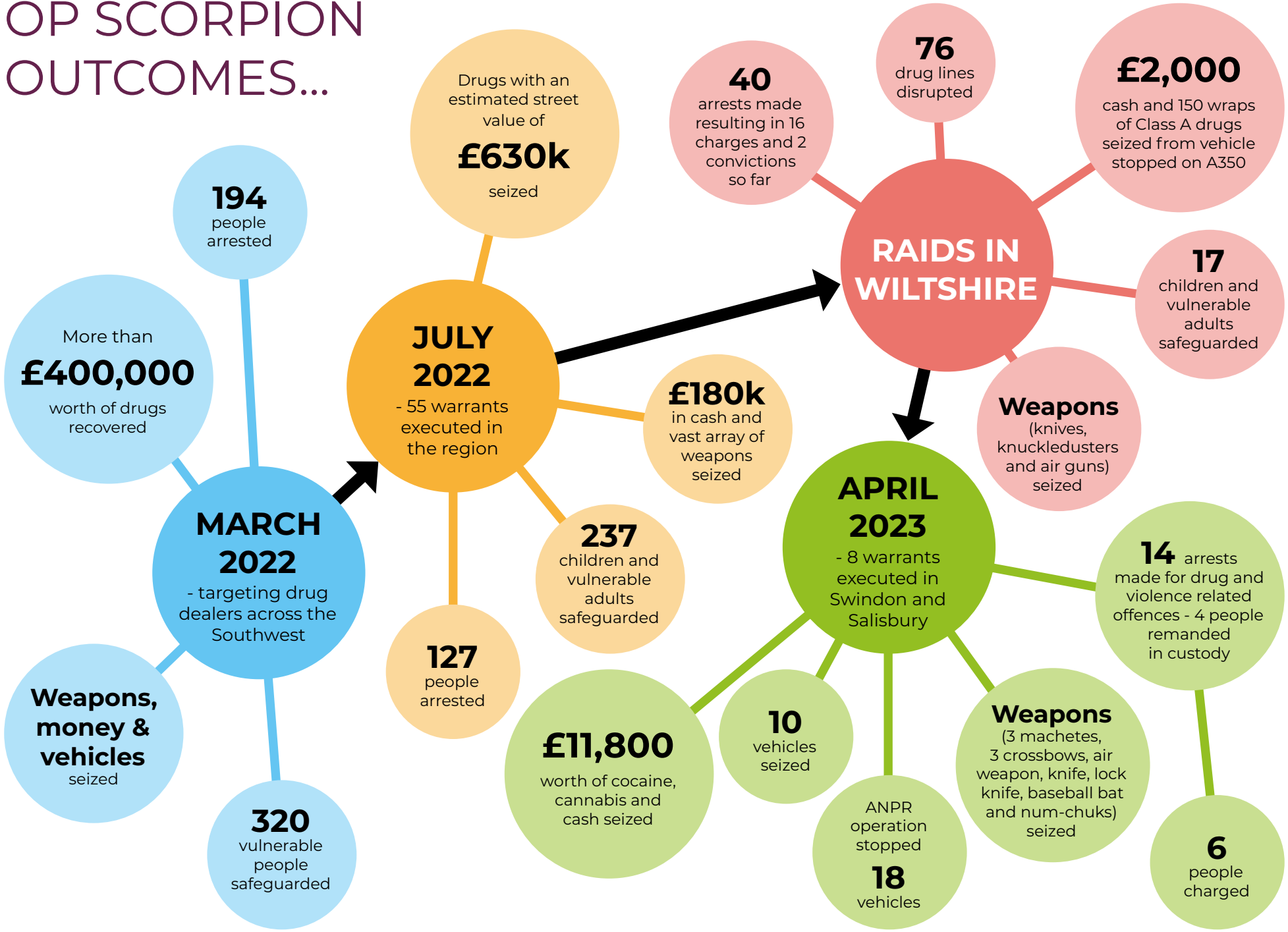
Together with Wiltshire Police, I joined partners across the southwest to support Operation Cavell which is a campaign to tackle rising assaults against emergency responders and increasing support for all emergency workers to secure convictions for offenders.

“

I went to join in some Sounds Like Women workshops with a group of women who had all suffered due to domestic abuse. We had so much fun and laughed, sung and recorded a song together! I can't recommend Sounds Like Women enough for healing and empowerment!

”

OP SCORPION OUTCOMES...



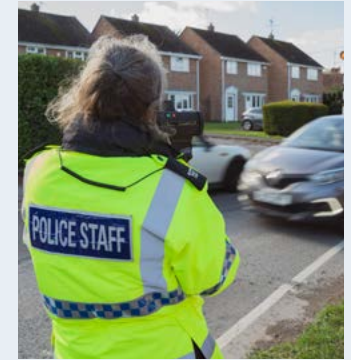
Priority three



Tackle crimes that matter most to local communities

Road Safety

I promised to improve road safety and make better use of intelligence data. My office has led increased road safety focus, including collaboration with all partner agencies to improve co-ordinated outcomes. Three new Traffic Enforcement Officers have been employed; as well as state-of-the-art equipment, three new Road Safety Officers and associated cars, two administrators to process speeding tickets increasing focus on road safety and supporting Community SpeedWatch activities.



Between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 the team undertook enforcement at 220 locations, resulting in:

2,561

speed awareness
course tickets

330

finest and points

44

court appearances

I said we would use data from Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) across Wiltshire and Swindon to inform Force deployment of enforcement activities in my Police and Crime Plan - and we have. A pilot has



been successfully undertaken from January to June 2023 to gather data from 20 SIDs for use by Wiltshire Police. The monthly data was extracted by volunteers over a period of five months. This data has been sent to Wiltshire Police and imported into their computer system.



The data has been used to assess average and maximum average speeds on an hourly / daily / weekly, and monthly basis, at all locations covered by the SIDs. The Force uses this data, together with other sources of intelligence, to make speed enforcement decisions. This has now been rolled out to all SIDs across Wiltshire and Swindon, with 60 SIDs registered and submitting data.

Wiltshire Police have joined the Department for Transport campaign and are using positive drug wipe data to enhance intelligence and to improve road safety.



Community Speed Watch

The Community Speed Watch scheme, which is run by volunteers across the county, encourages local people to address speeding in their communities. The volunteers work closely with Community Policing Teams, supported by the Special Constabulary Roads Policing Unit. All volunteers are trained by Traffic Management Policing Officers to monitor traffic speed and must comply with a code of practice.

“ We are absolutely delighted with the investment in more Speed Enforcement and Road Safety Officers and all of the visible speed enforcement they have undertaken in our village. This makes our Community Speed Watch volunteers and residents feel supported, and we know that improving Road Safety is a major priority. It is great to see that things are really being done to make our roads safer. ”



“ Over the past year our Community Speed Watch Team has really appreciated the support from the Speed Enforcement Team (special thanks to Speed Enforcement Officers Jack, Debbi and Scott). Our records indicate that the combined roadside presence has significantly contributed to the speed awareness and a reduction in the number of speeding vehicles. Thank you. ”

Anti-social behaviour

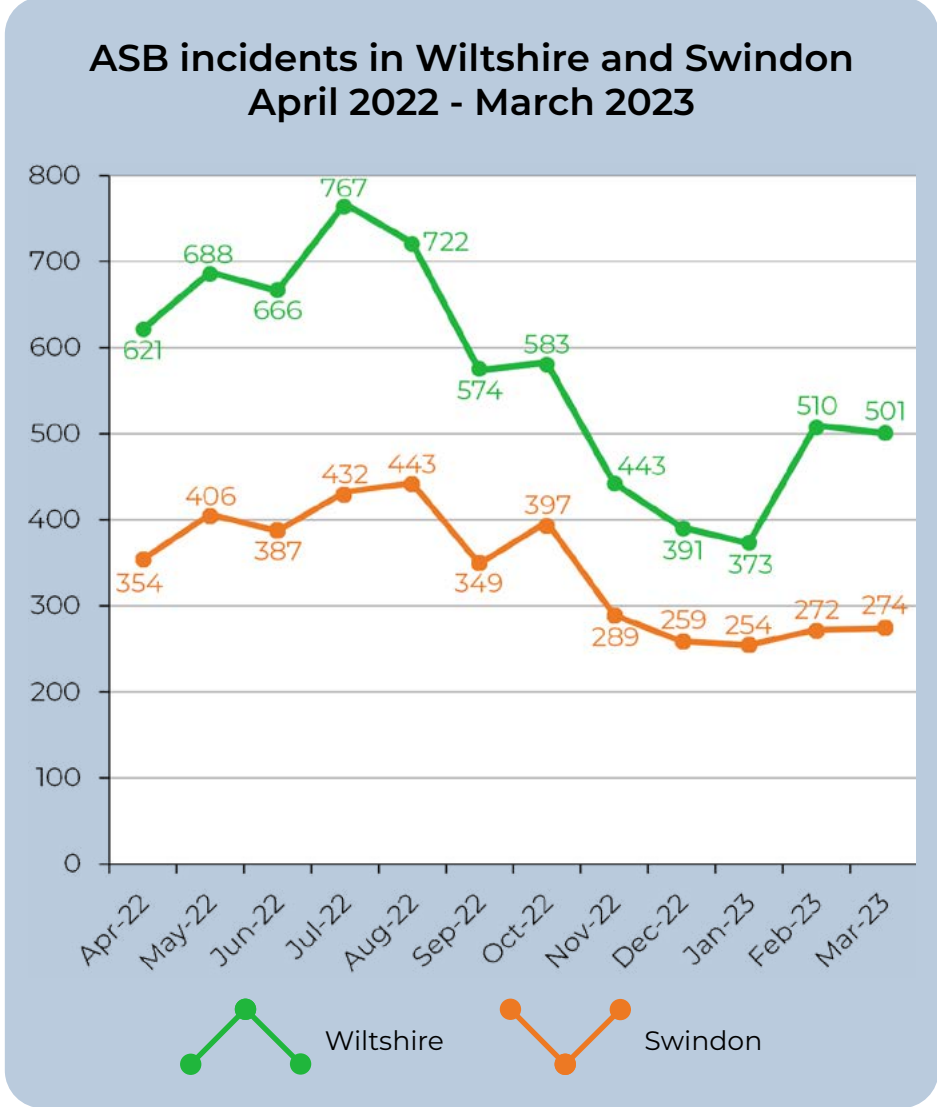
This is not a low-level crime – it can be devastating for those who become victim to it, and it can be a precursor to more serious crime. I am determined that Wiltshire Police tackle it, working jointly with local authorities and other partners to respond robustly and comprehensively to issues where they arise.



In the last year, Wiltshire Police has worked with Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough to utilise the range of powers available to address anti-social behaviour and reduce its impact on the community. This has included the use of public space protection orders, dispersal orders in areas of concern, injunctions on individuals and closure orders on properties where such behaviour has caused significant distress to local

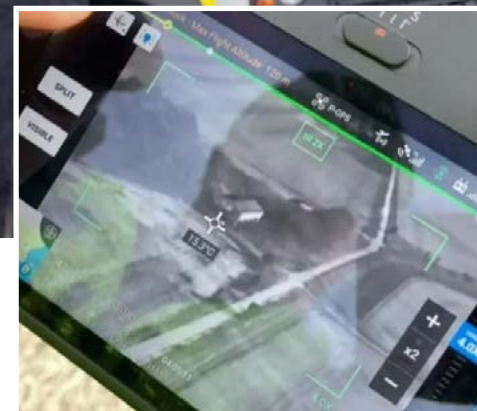
residents. The Force have also undertaken high-visibility patrols in hotspots identified by the community and targeted enforcement at those individuals perpetrating this sort of crime.

My office has worked with partners across the Community Safety Partnerships in Wiltshire and Swindon to develop an ASB toolkit which helps the public access the support they need and sign post to the right agency which can deal with any issues they are experiencing. Whilst I am pleased to see a drop in incidents of anti-social behaviour in the last year of 27% in Wiltshire and 32% in Swindon, there remains more to do, and I will continue to focus on this issue as residents have told me how important it is to them.



Safer streets fund

My office worked with Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council to successfully secure over £0.5M through the government's Safer Streets Fund to deliver projects designed to combat acquisitive, anti-social behaviour and tackle violence against women and girls. The range of interventions delivered included targeted youth work with young people in deprived areas, establishment of pop-up youth cafes, procurement of a mobile CCTV unit and installation of CCTV in hot spot areas, prevention work with schools and parents, provision of taxi marshals in Swindon to help increase safety for those out socialising at weekends.



Rural crime

I know how important tackling rural crime is, so I have invested in the Rural crime team with the uplift of three staff, doubling the size of team and purchasing a new pursuit and off-road vehicle. I have supported visible operations and work with Rural Crime Partnership to improve confidence in our rural communities.

PCC community action fund

This year I relaunched my Community Action Fund which offers grants up to £5,000 to local organisations and charities to support delivery of activities which align with the priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan. Working closely in partnership with the Wiltshire Community Foundation, we have redesigned the application process to make it even more accessible for smaller group and enable multiple opportunities to apply throughout the year. Funded by proceeds from the Police Property Act, the pot of money available has come from auctioning any unclaimed property that has been recovered following a crime.

Priority four



Improve the experience of victims and deliver justice

Supporting victims

During 2022-23 across Wiltshire and Swindon, I dedicated more than £500,000 in addition to national funding of more than £1M to support victims of crime, resulting in over 24,000

victims being assisted with a range of specialist and practical support depending on their needs.



Horizon

At the centre of Wiltshire and Swindon's model of support services is Horizon Victim and Witness Care, which provide support to all victims of crime. The team is funded by the OPCC and during this year I have supported the development and extension of the new advocate role which is aimed at enhancing the support and guidance available to particularly vulnerable victims.



Restorative justice

Restorative Together is a service provided by Horizon which brings those harmed by crime or conflict together with those responsible. This service offers victims of crime a level of resolution and possible closure and can help the harmer recognise and understand how their behaviour affects others. The Restorative Justice facilitators are all volunteers who are highly trained to work with those harmed, and their harmers, to help all parties move on in a positive way. I was delighted that Wiltshire's Restorative Justice volunteers won the Citizens in Policing 'Police Support Volunteer Team of Year' at the South West regional awards - this particularly recognised the dedication and skills they have to make this vital programme a success.



Mental health triage

This year my office has recommissioned the mental health triage service, working with partners in Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Trust and the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board. The service provides a dedicated clinical mental health professional 24/7 located in the Force control room to assist police with incidents where the mental ill health of an individual gives rise to concern.



Custody healthcare

During the year my office worked with colleagues from police forces across the south west to commission a new regional custody healthcare contract. Worth £8M, over ten years, this contract provides professional health services to detainees while in custody delivered by qualified medical professionals, ensuring high standards and quality of care and support throughout the custody process. This contract went live in Wiltshire Police in October 2022.

Reducing re-offending

My office commissions a range of services aimed at reducing reoffending by providing appropriate help, rehabilitation, and support services for offenders.

In the last year the OPCC has worked with NHS England to recommission the mental health treatment requirement service which provide individuals with complex mental health needs with specialist support through community sentencing.

We have also worked in partnership with our local authority colleagues to recommission substance misuse contracts in both Swindon and Wiltshire. These services provide drug and alcohol treatment pathways through out-of-court resolutions and court



orders for offenders, delivering alcohol treatment and drug rehabilitation requirements. These contracts include hubs across the force area as well as outreach services into custody where dedicated staff work alongside the police to engage and support offenders to tackle substance misuse.

In addition to these specialist services, the OPCC commissions a range of out-of-court resolutions. These are a means of dealing with



less serious offending, which do not need prosecution at court and can be dealt with quickly and more effectively through alternative means. My office funds an interventions hub hosted online which provides 35 e-learning interventions targeted at common low-level offences or at specific offender groups such as vulnerable females.



An external review of the **Wessex Criminal Justice system**, which identified case supervision, training, police / CPS (Crown Prosecution Service) relationships, initial response, and processes as areas to improve. The significant improvement in DA (Domestic Abuse) 1st hearings from 79 days (May 21) to 22 day (May 22). Now, includes a 33% decrease in the average days from police referring a case to the CPS and the CPS authorising a charge, March 23. Alongside 7% (65) growth in investigations where an offender was issued with a charge outcome: victim-based offences.

Listening to you

Hearing your feedback and your experiences of the service you have received from Wiltshire Police is vital and helps me to scrutinise and challenge the policing service being delivered with the Chief Constable, and her leadership team.



As part of this, gathering feedback from our communities either I, or a member of my Office, has attended 15 Area Boards across Wiltshire between April 2022 and March 2023. We were also present at 12 Parish Council meetings and seven town council meetings. I have also been responsible for providing regular updates to both local authority council leaders and providing briefs and updates for all councillors across Wiltshire and Swindon.

We use these community-based meetings to gather feedback and hear how communities feel about the policing service but also to update on issues important to local communities, often with our policing colleagues so we can provide the fullest picture possible.

All information received is used to build improvements into the Force, where appropriate, or to provide community intelligence which can be used to inform local policing priorities.

Talking and listening to residents – and key communities – remains an area where we are dedicating time and resource to ensure I can faithfully represent the views of communities within policing.

My office and I have been out at 34 public consultation sessions across the county – including at high-footfall areas such as shopping

Public engagement

Between April 2022 and March 2023 either I, or a member of my office attended...



12 Parish Council meetings

7 Town Council meetings

34 Public consultations

15 Area boards

57 Public engagements

Digital engagement

March 2022 - 2023



centres, schools, and community centres, libraries and in under-represented communities.

We also actively engage with our communities digitally across social media channels where I, or my office, have a presence on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and X (formally Twitter).

Between March 2022 and 2023, we have published 928 posts, delivered 812k impressions (the number of times it was displayed in a content feed), to 318k users, with a 6.7% engagement rate. We consistently benchmark our engagement rates against industry standards for local government.

We use our public sector website to its full potential, ensuring accessibility best practice and engaging with new and returning visitors. This has resulted in nearly 44,000 page views. The website is optimised for all devices and, along with our social media activity, we track its performance and make improvements where needed.*

As well as attending 57 public engagements across the county, and representing the role of PCC and my office, I also hold regular bi-monthly surgeries with all local Members of Parliament and ensure any issues raised with them by their electorate are dealt with, and action taken where necessary and appropriate.

Alongside this, the work of the Force and how my office scrutinises, challenges and supports the performance of Wiltshire Police, was looked at in great detail across six Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime Panel meetings.

During the same time period, my office has continued to ask for residents' views and feedback in a more formal way. These include engaging with young people, with communities and with victims of crime:

- **Youth Commission:** The commission is now in its second year and enables young people aged between 14 and 25 to support, challenge and inform the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon. Young people can gain new knowledge, skills, and experiences, and have their say on crime and policing issues that matter most to them and their peers. The Youth Commission published its report earlier this year, and I hosted the 'Big Conversation' conference in January 2023 alongside police and partner agencies to hear directly from the youth commissioners on their findings.
- **Safer Nights Survey:** 2,800 residents responded to the survey sharing how safe they feel at night, and what could be done to ensure they feel safer. The results shaped the Safety at Night Charter and informed funding bids from the OPCC, and partners, for safer streets funding. Projects now being delivered include more street lighting, extra CCTV and a network of business signing up across Wiltshire and Swindon.
- **Victims Voice - satisfaction survey:** The OPCC coordinate the victims survey to ensure Wiltshire Police are meeting the needs of our victims. This survey aims to gain insight from a greater number of victims and use their experiences to help shape and improve services and the way the police engage and support victims through the criminal justice process.

*Analytics provided by Hootsuite.



His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services Inspections

In 2022, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services Inspection (HMICFRS) conducted an inspection of Wiltshire Police in line with their programme of scrutiny. Its report, 'Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy' (PEEL), in July 2022, graded Wiltshire Police as 'inadequate' in the ability to respond to the public, protect vulnerable people and strategic planning.



All other areas of assessment were graded as requires improvement, including how Wiltshire Police support victims and protect vulnerable people. Due to this inspection Wiltshire Police were placed into 'ENGAGE' status, where additional support and oversight are put in place by the inspectorate.

The Inspectorate's report was a sobering read and is highly disappointing especially when I know we have many dedicated officers and staff working hard to deliver a quality policing service. However, the inspection report was consistent with my own assessment and what I was hearing from residents, of Wiltshire Police's ability to deliver and performance, and I provided substantial public comment at the time.



My aim, alongside Chief Constable Roper, is for Wiltshire Police to provide a quality, effective, frontline policing service which prioritises those crimes which matter most to communities. These are priorities I have set in my Police and Crime Plan and I expect to see a tangible change that will improve, and enhance, the service that Wiltshire's residents get from their police service.

During 2022/23 there has been a significant refocusing of effort to improve policing services and this information is set out in detail on Wiltshire Police's website.

My role as PCC is to scrutinise, challenge and support the Chief Constable and ensure that these improvements are delivered. I have put in place a comprehensive approach to ensure this happens and the public are updated on progress, this includes:

- Weekly briefings from the Chief Constable and on key issues, where I review actions to improve Police deliver and impact for our communities
- Two monthly meetings formally reviewing Force performance and progress against my Police and Crime Plan and the HMICFRS PEEL areas
- Regular public reports to Police and Crime Panel on my assessment of the Force's PEEL progress

- Continual monitoring of Force internal delivery mechanisms and the arrangements in place to deliver the improvements required by HMICFRS and the OPCC
- Regular engagement with the HMICFRS representatives and Inspectors
- Programme of in-person visits by PCC, and OPCC senior staff, to Police services across Wiltshire and Swindon, meeting Police Officers and Police Staff to listen to issues, measure performance progress and recognise achievements.
- Feedback to communities on Force performance through quarterly performance updates, media releases and personal updates to community groups.

This work will continue through 2023/24 where Chief Constable Roper and I will continue to deliver improvements and engage with the HMICFRS, College of Policing and the Home Office to demonstrate both service, and performance, improvements.

Wiltshire Police will be reinspected in 2023/24 and I will continue to monitor Wiltshire Police's progress. I continue to have confidence that Chief Constable Roper is delivering the changes required.

Specific departments within Wiltshire Police have also been inspected. These were consistent with the work identified in the PEEL inspection and incorporated into these improvements.

More details of specific police inspections and national thematic inspections can be found at [His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/)





Finance and accountability

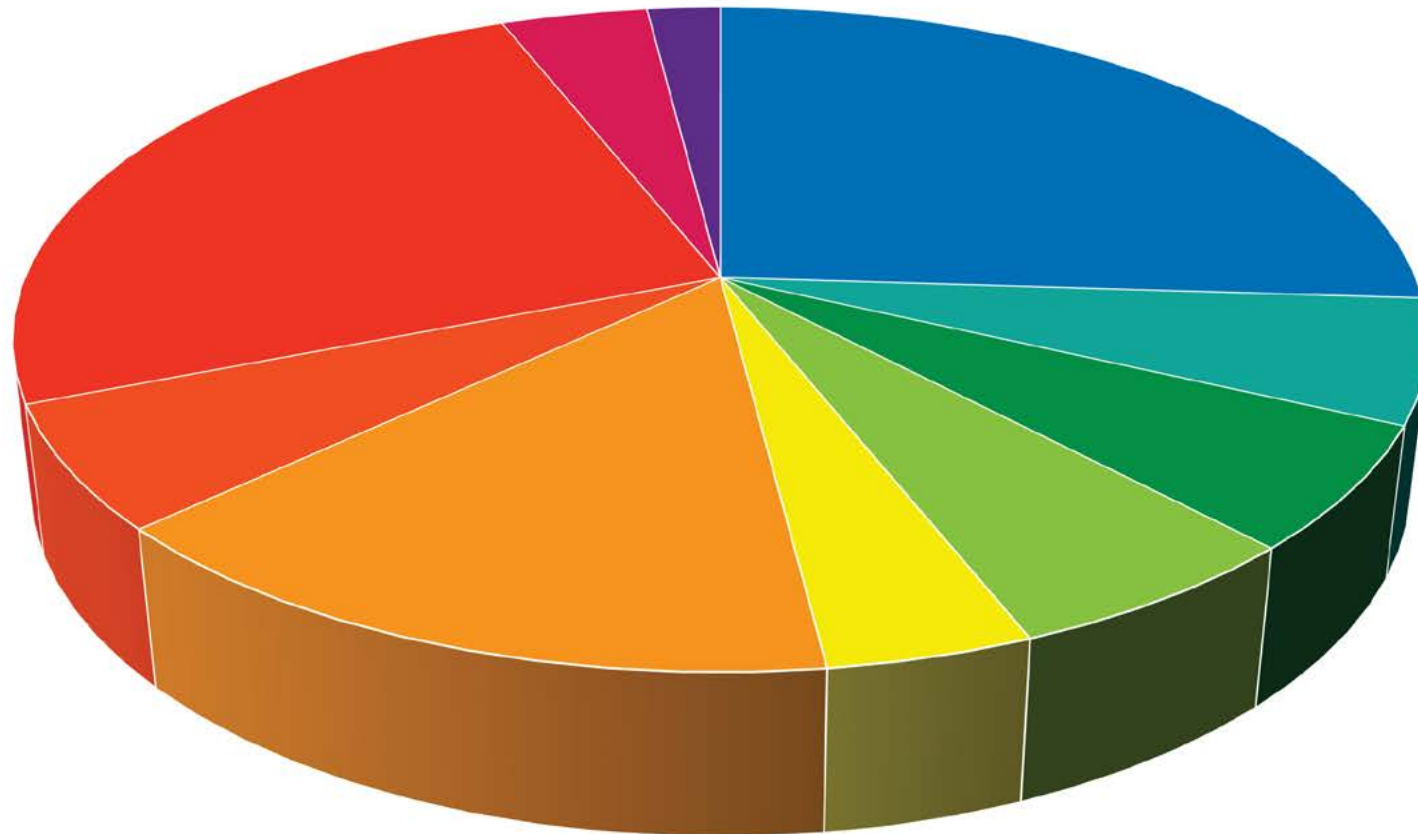
Summary of Financial Performance

My policing and office budget is as follows:

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	£m	£m	£m
OPCC office costs and external funding	3.268	5.171	5.451
Capital contribution	2.329	2.857	2.912
Enabling services allocation	27.683	32.224	34.825
Chief Constable allocation	100.747	100.144	103.345
Cost of service	134.027	140.396	146.534

Financed by			
Police grant	67.709	70.428	70.657
Legacy council tax grants	5.235	5.235	5.235
Precept	61.004	64.359	69.428
Surplus on collection fund	0.000	0.295	0.714
Investment income	0.079	0.079	0.500
Total income	134.027	140.396	146.534

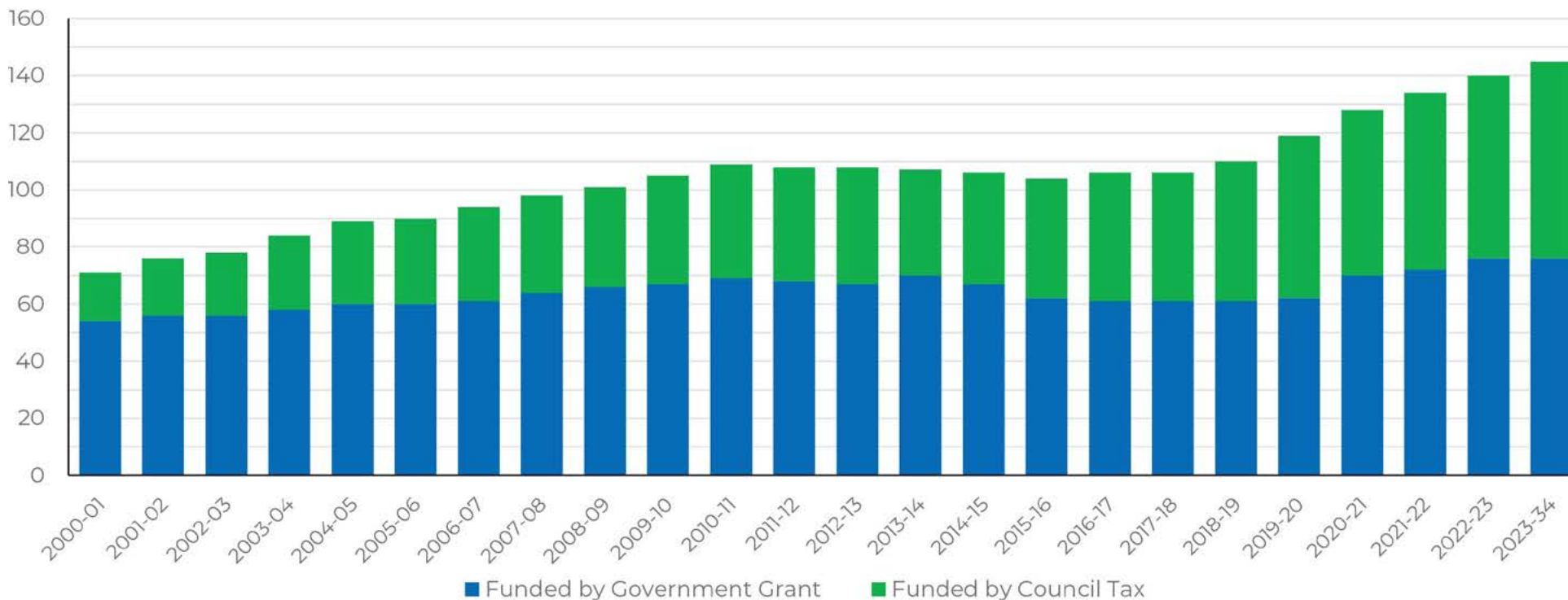
Actual spend



Local policing: 26% (28% 21/22)	Dealing with the public: 6% (8% 21/22)
Criminal justice arrangements: 6% (6% 21/22)	Specialist operations: 6% (4% 21/22)
Intelligence: 4% (4% 21/22)	Investigations: 15% (15% 21/22)
Public protection: 6% (5% 21/22)	National policing: 0% (1% 21/22)
Support including ACPO: 25% (24% 21/22)	PCC including commissioning: 4% (3% 21/22)
Central costs including reserves/capital: 2% (4% 21/22)	

Funding allocation

Central funding versus local funding graph 2000/01 to 2023/24



How the money was spent

Community Safety Fund 2022/23

The community safety fund is money I allocate to support the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan priorities. The fund supports collaborative arrangements with local authorities, third sector providers and Wiltshire Police.

Victims Fund 2022/23

This is a specific allocation by the Ministry of Justice for victim services and restorative justice services. In 2022-23, the amount provided to me was £916,371 and this enables the commissioning of services to improve support for victims. The Ministry of Justice also

awarded funding of £494,429 specifically for services supporting victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Police Property Act Fund

This fund manages money raised through the sale of lost property and is awarded to community and voluntary groups to support the delivery of my Police and Crime Plan through the PCC's Community Action Fund. This year I relaunched this fund to offer grants up to £5,000 to local organisations and charities to support delivery of activities which align with the priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan. Working closely in partnership with the Wiltshire Community Foundation, we have redesigned the application process to make it even more accessible for smaller group and enable multiple opportunities to apply throughout the year.



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Making Wiltshire Safer



www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk

HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD
We want to hear from rural residents across the South of Wiltshire about their experience of crime.
Tell us your experience
the survey

YOUR CCTV
could help to fight crime
pcc

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
for Wiltshire and Swindon
London Road, Devizes,
Wiltshire SN10 2DN

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To keep up to date with the Office of the
Police and Crime Commissioner follow
us on social media:

 [OPCCWiltSwindon](https://twitter.com/OPCCWiltSwindon)

 [WiltshireandSwindonPCC](https://www.facebook.com/WiltshireandSwindonPCC)

 [wiltshireandswindonpcc](https://www.instagram.com/wiltshireandswindonpcc)

 [office-of-the-police-and-crime-commissioner-for-wiltshire-and-swindon](https://www.linkedin.com/company/office-of-the-police-and-crime-commissioner-for-wiltshire-and-swindon)

 [@PCCWiltshireandSwindon](https://www.youtube.com/@PCCWiltshireandSwindon)

Wiltshire and Swindon

pcc

Autistic people tell of their struggles to find mental health support

Autistic people, and their families and carers, have told us of their desperation and frustration at not being able to get support they need for their mental health.

People said they felt isolated and misunderstood, falling between the gaps in services which aren't designed to meet their needs and where staff lack training and awareness to support them.

These are the stark findings of our work hearing the experiences of autistic people, and their carers, who have accessed mental health services in Wiltshire in the last three years.

In a joint project with Wiltshire Service Users' Network (WSUN), which runs the Wiltshire Autism Hub, we listened to feedback from more than 50 people to understand what is good and what could be better about local mental health services.

What did people tell us?

- Most people went to their GPs first to get help, but faced a long wait to be referred on to other services. Some said they could not get any support at all.
- Autistic people did not find services helpful. They didn't think talking therapies were suitable for them and sometimes made symptoms worse.
- Mental health staff lack training, awareness and understanding of autism. Sometimes this has resulted in misdiagnosis and inappropriate treatment, or no support.
- Thresholds for getting mental health help are very high or inappropriate for autistic people.
- Some people said they had used expensive private consultants or therapists in an attempt to get help.
- Carers said the Child and Adolescent Mental

Health Service (CAMHS) was overwhelmed and the waiting times very long.

- Waiting times for an autism diagnosis were seen as unacceptable, with little support or guidance post diagnosis.
- Communication difficulties, coupled with a lack of flexibility from services – such as only offering phone calls rather than face to face appointments – creates a barrier for autistic people to be able to access help.

Stacey Sims, Healthwatch Wiltshire Manager, said: "It is clear that autistic people and their carers have struggled to access support for their mental health in Wiltshire, and this has had a serious impact on them and their families.

"I want to thank everyone who took part for the experiences they've shared with us, and for suggesting ways to improve local services. We'll be monitoring how these services are developed in the future so they can better support autistic people, and those who care for them."

Louise Rendle, CEO of WSUN, said: "Research has shown that autistic people are much more likely to have anxiety, depression, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and eating disorders than non-autistic people. This report highlights how important it is that mental health services have specially trained staff with awareness in autism.

"Adaptable services that provide reasonable adjustments will help ensure that autistic people and their families have equal access to high quality mental health provision. Too many autistic people still struggle to get appropriate support and we see through the Autism Hub the impact this has on people's lives and that of their families."

Look out for the report on our website.

Community First - Annual Review and Celebration Video

The Community First Annual Review 2022-2023 is now available to view and download on our website. The Annual Review contains a summary of our work with people and communities over the last 12 months. This includes updates from our programmes and services, a general outline of our priorities and a summary of financial information for the year ending 31 March 2023.

<https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Annual-Review-2022-2023-FINAL-VERSION.pdf>

Alongside the Annual Review, we have also produced a Celebration Video with a summary of our work in 2022-2023 which you can view using the following link:

https://youtu.be/l_7JRAxZJGE?si=ueZugKZJx4hwWb6u

Community First AGM & Awards Celebration 2023

The Community First Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Awards Celebration took place on Wednesday 11th October at Devizes Town Hall. Thank you to everyone who attended the event as we celebrated our achievements in 2022-2023. The Community First Awards recognises and celebrates the outstanding achievements of groups, organisations, individuals and young people who give so much of their time and enthusiasm to support our charity and its services.

Full List of Winners

We are sure you will join us in congratulating our winners for their well-deserved awards, many thanks also to Community First President Sarah Troughton for presenting each of our winners with a trophy and certificate.

Award Name	Winner
The Michael Jones Award for Inspirational Link Scheme or Community Minibus Volunteer	Janice Vincent (Malmesbury Link Scheme)
Community Project Funded through the Landfill Communities Fund	Roger Baker (Ashbury Village Hall)
The Martin Hamer in Special Recognition Award	Alan Fox
Most Innovative Community Run Project or Service	Darry New (Community Bus, Haydon Wick)
Robbie's Endeavour Trophy	Winterslow Youth Club
Young Carers Achievement Award - Under 12 years	Charlie
Young Carers Achievement Award - Over 12 years	Hannah

Project Inspire Achievement Award	Edward
Splash Achievement Award	Sam
Splash Volunteer Award	John Wyeth
Community First Young Leader’s Achievement Award	Will
Building Bridges Outstanding Achievement Award	Dorcas Obeney
The Arthur Laflin Volunteer Award	Jacquie Henly (Hilmarton Parish Council)

Youth Action Wiltshire - Carols by Candlelight

Youth Action Wiltshire invites you to Carols by Candlelight to celebrate the 25-year anniversary of Wiltshire Young Carers Service. The event will take place on Friday 8th December 2023 (7pm) at Malmesbury Abbey. Drinks and canapes will be served following the service.

Proceeds will fund a programme of exciting and fun respite activities for Wiltshire Young Carers, including music and songwriting, workshops, art, wildlife and adventure activities.

To request tickets, please complete the ticket application form using the link below (a copy is included with this briefing pack) or email Ginnie Keen: ginniekeen@gmail.com.

Ticket prices are as follows:

- Adult ticket - £20
- Child ticket (14 years and under) - £10

Ticket application form: <https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Carol-2023-application-form-v2.docx>

The Big Give Christmas Challenge - Wiltshire Young Carers Service



This year Community First is participating in [The Big Give Christmas Challenge](#) in support of our Wiltshire Young Carers Service.

We currently hold open cases for Wiltshire young carers, of which 14% are recognised as the most vulnerable with some in the safeguarding system. As well as the pressures of their caring role and having to balance their own school and relationship pressures alongside the additional caring role, the recent pandemic has increased stress and worry. A national survey carried out by Carers Trust showed 58% of young carers were caring for longer and 40% said their mental health was worse.

Funds raised through The Big Give Christmas Challenge campaign will provide respite activities and support plans for 15 young carers, 30 Young Carers will access remote group webinars and a further 15 young carers can access structured one-to-one mentoring and coaching programmes with our Young Carers Support Workers. This will help them with their mental health and wellbeing. With increased investment, we can receive up to 15 new young carer referrals from our partner agencies.

Your gift will help more young people feel less alone in their caring role, they will see that home life has improved, they will feel included, be better at attending school, and feel happier.

Through this national campaign, we are aiming to secure up to £4,000 in pledges from supporters and donors which will be match-funded for 7 days between **28th November to 5th December 2023**. This is a fantastic way to help make a difference for young carers in Wiltshire and one small donation e.g. £5 will have *twice* the impact during this period.

More information about our how to support our Big Give Christmas Challenge will be available on our website and social media channels from mid-November.

Landfill Communities Fund - Wiltshire and Swindon Highlights 2022-2023

Community First manages and administrates the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) in Wiltshire and Swindon. The LCF offers capital funding for local community, heritage and environmental projects in areas where local landfill operator sites or depots are located.

Funding for the LCF in Wiltshire and Swindon is received from landfill operators The Hills Group Ltd and Crapper & Sons Landfill Ltd. Over £5.5m of funding has been distributed through the LCF since 2002.

Entrust is the regulator of the Landfill Communities Fund and has produced statistical highlights for the LCF in Wiltshire and Swindon in 2022-2023. A copy of the PDF is included with this briefing pack and is summarised below.

- £329k - total LCF funds invested.
- 31 projects completed.
- 45 jobs were created as a result of funded projects.
- 298 people volunteer due to funding offered through the LCF in Wiltshire and Swindon
- 124,720 public visits.
- £5.77 of additional economic value for every £1 invested through the LCF.

For more information about the Landfill Communities Fund in Wiltshire and Swindon, please visit the Community First website: www.communityfirst.org.uk/grants

MiDAS - Minibus Driver Awareness Training

Community First offers accredited MiDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness) Training for organisations and groups, led by our fantastic Training Co-ordinator Martin Carter.

MiDAS is a membership-based scheme designed to enhance both driving and safety standards for drivers of minibuses. MiDAS is a nationally recognised standard for the assessment and training of minibus drivers. Community First is now taking new bookings for MiDAS minibus training with our Training Coordinator Martin Carter. Martin is a retired Police Advanced Driver with over 35 years' experience of driving minibuses.

The MiDAS training course includes a session on how to operate a minibus safely. This is followed by a 30-minute multiple-choice assessment with 20 questions. Trainees will need to answer 16 questions correctly to pass the theory test. Finally, there will be a practical test which incorporates a driving skills training session and an assessment drive which will last just over an hour, with the assessment taking 30

minutes. Upon completion of the theory and practical test, trainees will receive a certificate which is valid for 4 years.

Pricing is based on a minimum group size of 3 drivers per booking and starts at £105.00 per person. We are now taking new bookings for Winter 2023, early booking is recommended to secure a training place.

Please contact mcarter@communityfirst.org.uk for more information and how to book training.

A leaflet about MiDAS training is included with this briefing pack.

Briefing prepared by:

Ellie Ewing

Marketing and Communications Manager (Community First)

ewing@communityfirst.org.uk

Update for Wiltshire Area Boards

October 2023

Winter Planning

As our health and care system continues to experience unrelenting demand challenges and operational pressures, we are continuing to work with our partners to deliver existing demand management and capacity improvement plans.

We are monitoring the impact of these plans at both a System and Place level and will take the learning into the development of our plans for the coming winter.

Operationally there continues to be significant joint working in the locality under our Home is Best programme of work which supports patients to remain at home, aims to reduce our reliance on bed-based care and improve patient outcomes and experience.

This approach helps to enable us operationally to manage the system challenges and pressures and, together, we continue to maintain a good flow of people from our acute hospitals to community settings or home.

Working in partnership across health and social care, we are on track to deliver our plans to deliver against targets including reducing the number of the non-criteria to reside in our acutes - currently maintaining a position below our trajectory of 30, significantly reducing our number of discharge to assess beds by 40 per cent, we are currently at 31, exceeding our target of 36.

We have also continued to increase our use of virtual wards - a flagship BSW scheme. A key focus for the coming months is on increasing referrals to the Virtual Ward step-up model through continuing to raise the profile of service.

We will work through the implications of pressures being relieved in one part of the system with pressure then arising in another part of the system. We have key workstreams in place to work through this jointly.

Community Investment Fund

Good progress has been made with our Community Investment Fund. BSW ICB has been working with five BaNES-based third sector organisations and has awarded grants to Southside Hardship Fund, Julian House, Citizens Advice Bureau, Age UK and West of England Rural Network.

These grants will help some of our most vulnerable communities with cost-of-living support, food and clothing and warm home grants.

This is a key part of our strategy on health inequalities and a demonstrable example of how BSW ICB is working directly with our communities at a local level.



Update from Age UK Wiltshire – November 2023

Sarah Cardy, CEO of Age UK Wiltshire has attended several community engagement events recently and seen the need for information from older people and their families. It has also been encouraging to hear positive feedback about our services.

Over the years, we've witnessed a significant growth in the demand for our services. The desire of older adults to maintain their independence and continue living fulfilling lives in their own homes has never been stronger. This is a testament to the much-needed work Age UK Wiltshire does but it also highlights the pressing need for continued support and expansion of our programs.

Surviving Winter Grants

We are currently promoting our Surviving winter grants, which can help vulnerable people experiencing fuel poverty.

The one-off grant available through Age UK Wiltshire is £200 and the scheme will run until April 2024 but may close early if all grants are allocated.

"The Surviving Winter grant will make an awful lot of difference, thank you." - Eve

The Surviving Winter Grant was introduced by Wiltshire Community Foundation over 10 years ago and has already helped 1000's of households in Wiltshire. It is a multi-agency approach working not only with Age UK Wiltshire but with Wiltshire Citizens Advice, Swindon Citizens Advice, Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living, and Wiltshire Warm & Safe to help people by providing grants towards fuel or other heating related costs.

There is eligibility criteria and an application process. More information on this can be found at www.ageuk.org.uk/wiltshire/our-services/surviving-winter/

Household Support Fund – hot food

We are also providing support for older people who need food, are in rural locations and are unable to get support. We will give support for a period of time whilst we provide holistic advice and support for a more sustainable solution. People can contact our meals team on 01793 279606 or email: communitymeals@ageukwiltshire.org.uk

Age UK Wiltshire Charity Shops

We have ambitious plans to have charity shop hubs across Wiltshire, and these are progressing which is very exciting. We've now signed the lease, and are working on our Salisbury site which should be open very soon.

It is an excellent opportunity for Age UK Wiltshire to have more of a town presence. These high street centres will include office space for our I&A advisors, providing the opportunity for residents to have accessible, face to face appointments.

We are also working hard towards the Marlborough and Devizes shops.

Although this is a great retail opportunity, the success of our charity shops is not just about selling items - it's about transforming generosity into tangible support for older people in our communities.



Melksham Community Support Scheme

Age UK Wiltshire is working together with Melksham Town Council, Melksham Without Parish Council and Melksham Area Board to improve the wellbeing of older people living in Melksham, by offering support, access to information and practical help.

“Sarah, (Melksham Community Support Senior Project Worker) who visited was brilliant and it was great to talk things through.” - Winifred

We have already seen the difference our support can make to the residents of Melksham but if your network has any referrals or would like more information, please contact us on 01225 809265 or email melksham@ageukwiltshire.org.uk



Community Engagement Report – Devizes Nov 23

The Devizes Area Board in June 23 agreed local priority themes for the year, each of which has one or more specific local actions associated with it. Some of the recent progress made includes:

Addressing Climate change and protecting the environment

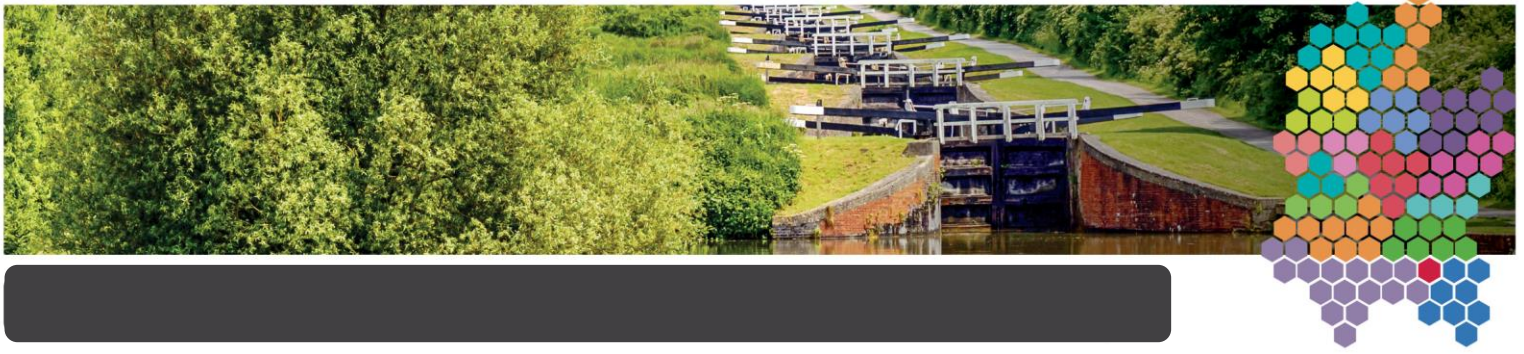
- The Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) bus service introduced in the summer for the Pewsey Vale is going very well with patronage up over 25% compared with 2022. The new service from Devizes to Marlborough is now also running.
- The Town Centre bus service review is unlikely to be implemented until after April 24. The key challenges are a severe shortage of bus drivers and costs for running the services increasing by over a third.
- We are working with Sustainable Devizes to improve air quality, engage the community in developing a shared vision for Devizes whilst delivering infrastructural improvements and behaviour change. A useful meeting with the cabinet member recently took place on how to deliver Devizes Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructural Plan (LCWIP).
- Work has been taking place to take forward the Devizes Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and a helpful and productive meeting has taken place with the Cabinet Member for highways to share our plans and gather support.



Improve opportunities for children and young people / Increasing the safety of our communities / strengthening our local economy

We have been focussing upon work that encompasses all these three priorities including:

- 4Youth began their detached youth work in October operating 2 evenings a week in Devizes
- A bid is being finalised for the Million Hours Fund that will bring in additional resource to enable us to deliver more youth work than we currently do.
- A very useful meeting was held with the headteacher of Devizes School to discuss improving joint working and additional support of young people who would struggle to find employment.
- We are teaming up with a piece of work taking place in Devizes up until April 2024 and will work with a cohort of young people who have been identified at being at risk of moving into serious crime. The project is externally funded and will focus not just on prevention but also on community and interventions especially to help them into employment.
- We are looking to work with the PCN and partners to look into identifying and responding to the needs for young carers.



Valuing and supporting our vulnerable and older people

- Several meetings have taken place between partners to look at potential topics for a Neighbourhood Collaborative.
- Discussions are ongoing with the PCN to find ways to make Devizes more dementia friendly and provide activities for those with earlier stage dementia
- A networking event to bring together those who work in the health and wellbeing field is planned.

Previous Status	Project ID	Town / Parish	Project Title	Project Proposal	Most Recent Actions & Recommendations	New Status
Awaiting Slot	NA	All Areas	All Areas	<p>Prior to the formation of LHFIGs, previously Parking & Waiting Restriction requests were processed centrally. Following Cabinet’s approval for the formation of the groups, these requests will be at the discretion of the groups to prioritise.</p> <p>Existing parking and waiting Restrictions which moved to LHFIG upon formation</p> <p>The group must decide on whether to proceed with progression of these or to abandon.</p>	<p>Draft proposals have been prepared for the known sites.</p> <p>These will be forwarded to Devizes TC shortly for consideration before progressing to advertising TRO's.</p>	In Progress
High Priority	6675	Bromham	Bromham	<p>Bromham Parish Council would like to put in motion a speed restriction on the A342 from South of the Calne A3102 50/40mph speed restriction to the St Edith’s Marsh 30 MPH restriction.</p> <p>(Priority No.03)</p> <p>This length of the A342 is now a 60MPH road with frequent occurring accidents which can be backed up by local police and a freedom of information request for the crash map information for accidents. This stretch of road starting at the Calne junction has the following: Farm shop, Residential properties, Chittoe junction - poor visibility. The Audi Garage, Residential properties, The A3102 Melksham junction with Collins Veg. Shop - minor accidents happen here on a regular basis not always police recorded- V P Collins Vegetables at 81 Devizes Road can support this. ACCIDENT SPOT; Double bends. ACCIDENT SPOT; New Farm and Digester entrance to A J Butlers Farm -between the double bends. Cross road junction to Highfield village centre and Roughmoor. Roughmoor 9 residential properties plus A J Butlers main Farm access and Open Reach telecom building. ACCIDENT SPOT; Cross road junction to Yard lane and The Pound village centre. ACCIDENT SPOT; Hawkstreet junction. A speed restriction has been requested on two previous occasions but without response. Bromham Parish Council ask that this request is seriously considered by that appropriate team.</p>	<p>Wick Lane/Dane Lane to be included</p> <p>GR explained there is a wider speed assessment on the A3102 which could envelope the A342 and this task outside of LHFIG, however, might be 2-3yrs away. DM suggested this project stays within LHFIG to achieve a faster solution.</p>	High Priority
High Priority	06-20-21	Devizes	Devizes	<p>Access through this residential area is often used as a rat run, as it bypasses traffic congestion in New Park Street leading to rat run mentally. Commercial Road from the junction at the Sainsbury Mini Roundabout to Rotherstone, the whole of Couch Lane, the whole of New Park Road and the whole of Victoria Road all have high concentrations of pedestrian and frequent parking manoeuvres, therefore a 20mph speed limit would be more appropriate for this area. We would call this Zone Three, 20mph speed limit. See attached plan.</p> <p>Further zones will be handled at the same time to save money (See rows below)</p>	<p>TRO's have been advertised.</p> <p>Small level of objection received (3no), majority in Support (16no).</p> <p>Cabinet Member report has been drafted and awaiting formal sign off.</p>	High Priority
NA	06-20-22	Devizes	Devizes - Request for 20mph Limit – Area 1	<p>Long Street, St Johns Street, the Highstreet, Market Place and Station Road are access to the town centre but are often used as a rat run, as it is shorter route to get through the town than preferred arterial route of New Park Street, which in turn leads to a rat run mentally. All these roads have high concentrations of pedestrian and frequent parking manoeuvres, therefore a 20mph speed limit would be more appropriate for this area.</p> <p>We would call this Zone One, 20mph speed limit. See attached plan</p>	Handled as part of task 06-20-21 above	

NA	06-20-23	Devizes	Devizes - Request for 20mph Limit – Area 2	The whole of Bridewell Street, the whole of Hare and Hounds Street, the whole of Sheep Street, the whole of Sidmouth Street, the whole of Maryport Street and the whole of Monday Market Street are either within the main shopping area of the town or are the feeder road into this area and as such all have high concentrations of pedestrian and frequent parking manoeuvres and therefore a 20mph speed limit would be more appropriate for this area. We would call this Zone Two, 20mph speed limit. See attached plan	Handled as part of task 06-20-21 above	
NA	06-20-24	Devizes	Devizes - Request for 20mph Limit – Area 4	There has been a 20mph zone implemented for the Brickley Lane area for time, however Church Walk was missed off that scheme. It meets all the same criteria as Bickley Lane and is a feeder road into this wider scheme, therefore we believe it should have its speed limit reduced to 20mph. We would call this Zone Four. 20mph speed limit. See attached plan	Handled as part of task 06-20-21 above	
Awaiting Update	06-22-30	Devizes	Devizes Bath Road - Dropped Kerb Request	At a recent meeting of the Town Council's Planning committee, it considered are request for a dropped kerb in Bath Road by the Murco Petrol filling station, following the submission of a Highway Improvement Request Form from a resident of Mayenne Place. Within the request, the applicant states the pavement outside the petrol station on the A361 had no dropped kerb, so this is a serious problem for wheelchair users, especially because at this location there is no safe option to cross the road. The picture below shows the pavement in question. After considering the request, it was agreed there is an issues in the location that needs to be addressed and therefore the Town Council supports it.	DTC to confirm budget contribution and proposed location. This fits the LHFIG and wider Council criteria and objectives. Scheme has been added to 23/24 Programme (Indicative Autumn 23)	High Priority
Awaiting Update	06-22-34	Devizes	Devizes Downlands Rd Request for Dropped Kerbs	Dropped kerbs (pedestrian access). Due to my recent lack of mobility I am in need of dropped kerbs to be able to cross the road and its become apparent that there are none in Downlands road. I believe the council have a responsibility to provide safe access for all residents regardless of physical ability. Dropped kerbs installed at intervals around Downlands Road to enable freedom of movement.	A full proposal has been developed and forwarded to KN for consideration by DTC. Outline proposal circa £15,000 for all locations (rather than £2k as initially estimated). Awaiting DTC confirmation of £3,750 contribution (rather than £500 initially estimated)	Awaiting Update
New Issue	06-23-07	Devizes	A361 Escourt Street Morrisons Roundabout Access	Drivers trying to overtake on the roundabout outside Morrisons, when you move to the left to allow other drivers to turn right into Morrisons without causing a traffic hold up. This has nearly caused several accidents. At the roundabout it is big enough to do a two lane marking, one on the left to go forward and the other on the right to enable vehicles to drive into Morrisons, this would help ease the traffic hold ups	Group decided this was unlikely to alter traffic flow as vehicles naturally doing it. Implementation would be more nuanced than anticipated likely leading to loss of 1-2 parking spaces.	Remove

New Issue	06-23-08	Devizes	High Lawn Waiting Restrictions	<p>The Town Council has received two Highway Improvement Forms from residents of High Lawns, Devizes expressing concerns that the turning area at the bottom of the road is blocked by visitor parking, which results in delivery vehicle and refuse lorries being unable to turn around. As a consequence, residents advise that these vehicles then have to reverse back up the hill of High Lawns, which is difficult manoeuvre and isn't helped when they get to the top as they then have to get into a position where they can re-enter the Bath Road.</p> <p>As a solution, residents are asking if "No Parking" markings can be placed on the road to help with this problem</p>	<p>GR confirmed no internal feedback received from waste team highlighting issue. IW confirmed it was likely to only impact two houses. DM requested this be left until the next meeting to give DTC a chance to provide data to outline extent of issue.</p>	Awaiting Update
Remove	06-23-05	Devizes	Devizes Wick Lane / Pans Lane Waiting Restriction	<p>Cars are frequently park near the roundabout at the junction of Wick Lane and Pans Lane. At this location, there is an informal crossing point leading to the rear pedestrian entrance to Wansdyke Primary School. Vehicles are often left right up to the crossing point which significantly reduces sight lines and increasing the risk of accident as primary school children and families cross the road to the school gates.</p> <p>Sometimes vehicles are left across the crossing point making a bad situation significantly worse.</p> <p>Parking restrictions at this location are required to improve road safety on the school journey, and for general road safety at the junction.</p>	<p>IW had not noticed this problem at weekends. The problem is specifically caused by school parents (as with most other school locations in the country). Drivers must not park next to roundabouts or across dropped kerbs. KN undertaking work on school travel plan with the school who should address the matter with their parents. Project to be removed from October Agenda.</p> <p>Project will be built into Devizes area TRO. IW and DM requested commitment from the school to help enforce the restrictions.</p>	High Priority
High Priority	06-22-32	Bulkington	Bulkington Chestnut Drive - Request for Dropped Kerbs	<p>There are slightly dropped kerbs at the end of the road . However these are sometimes obstructed by parked cars. The shaped curbs that do exist are unsuitable for manual wheelchair users.</p> <p>This is the only ramped access to the church (when cars are parked on the road for a service). The slightly dropped kerb to the right of the entrance is facing directly into the street sign – "Chestnut Drive" which makes it very difficult for motorised wheelchair users to negotiate onto the pavement as there is insufficient "turning access".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Dropped kerbs at road height to be fitted at the end of Chestnut Drive. •These dropped kerbs should be indicated as ramp access so that cars are aware that they are disabled access routes. Parking restriction should be in place where there is ramp access •The street sign for Chestnut Drive should be relocated from the slightly dropped kerb 	<p>Order has been placed with contractor. Works require alterations to Utility apparatus (BT Chamber Cover). Milestone are seeking agreement from BT.</p> <p>GR confirmed his team remains in contact with PC over the delay.</p>	High Priority
New Project	06-22-33	Bulkington	Bulkington Northfields - Request for Dropped Kerbs	<p>There are no dropped curbs so when walking or wheeling up the high street, you can't get up and down again from the pavements leaving into Northfields. The village has a lot of elderly, young children on scooters, parents with push chairs and wheelchair users. These areas make navigating their village very hard for them.</p> <p>Install a dropped kerb on both sides</p>	<p>PC to confirm budget contribution and proposed location.</p> <p>This fits the LHFIG and wider Council criteria and objectives on accesibility.</p>	Linked to task above

New Issue	06-23-11	Poulshot	Broadway Lane Byway Improvement	<p>Waterlogged byway called Broadway Lane, makes it very difficult for pedestrians and cyclists to navigate in certain places where there is no firm surface.</p> <p>Parish Council would like to investigate funding of an extension to the already cinder tracked part to encompass the entire length of The Broadway or at the very least be able to install a board walk over the areas that get waterlogged.</p>	<p>DM requested more detail on this proposal. What is being sought? Where? How many people will it impact? The group can then take a view.</p>	Awaiting Update
Approved - Awaiting High Priority Slot	06-22-08	Seend	Seend A361 / Bollands Hill - Request for small signing alterations	<p>Despite the road safety improvements carried out in 2018 at the Bell Crossroads under the 'Local Road Safety Scheme' by Wiltshire Highways and the additional signage put in place in Bell Hill in Autumn of 2020, the Parish Council is still concerned with the high number of accidents occurring at the Bell crossroads, as some drivers are not stopping at the top of Bollands Hill and Bell Hill.</p> <p>We would like to ask for the support of CATG to look at what else can be done at these crossroads to improve driver awareness of the need to give way at these junctions. Following a useful meeting with Highways, it was suggested that some small scale measures may be possible to improve signage and visibility making drivers more aware of the cross roads and the need to give way. Whilst, we have been told, the cross-roads do not meet the DfT criteria for a Stop sign, we would ask if there is any discretion on this, as many people feel a stop sign and continuous white line would help reduce the number of accidents.</p>	<p>The Civils element (dropped kerb) has been completed.</p> <p>Order for Traffic Sign's and Road markings is with the contractor. Scheme has been set out and will be implemented imminently.</p>	High Priority
New Project	06-23-05	Seend	Seend A361 Dial Close to School Road Narrow Road & Footway	<p>Narrow section of A316 between Dial Close and School Road. There is insufficient roadwidth to allow large vehicle to pass each other without mounting the narrow footpath on this section of road potentially trapping pedestrians between the vehicle and adjacent wall. In addition, damage has been caused to a listed building caused by a high sided vehicle driving too close to the road edge and colliding with the building roof. The owner of the property has contacted 'Historic England' and their insurers are believed to be contacting Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>The Parish Council would like to work with LHFIC to explore the Traffic Engineering Manager's suggestion to consider replacing the unreliable electronic signage system with 'Shuttle Working Traffic Lights'.</p>	<p>DM requested more detail on this problem including accident/damage stats.</p> <p>TJ confirmed speed of traffic from Trowbridge likely a contributing factor but the CSW is now in place and trained.</p> <p>DM requested this stays until the next meeting to give CSW a chance to have an impact and for the PC to provide evidence.</p>	Awaiting Update
Awaiting Update	06-22-24	Easterton	Easterton B3098 - Bus Stop Improvements	<p>The bus stop outside Halstead Farmhouse is located on a raised and rounded grassed stream bank. The height of the bank proves difficult for anyone with special access requirements to negotiate safely, especially in wet weather.</p> <p>A] construction of a dedicated alighting platform with an associated drop kerb Or B] Move the bus stop to the other side of the junction with Kings Rd where the existing footway is eminently suitable and has been unofficially used by sympathetic bus drivers considerate for their passengers ability.</p>	<p>PC has confirmed location but needs to confirm budget contribution.</p> <p>PC contribution confirmed</p> <p>Scheme has been added to 23/24 Programme</p> <p>JB to send GR specific location details and photos. GR confirmed this has been allocated to a team member for completion.</p>	High Priority

New Project	06-22-39	Market Lavington	Market Lavington High St / Church St - Request for Pedestrian Improvements	<p>Market Lavington has grown over the years in a linear fashion placing more and more houses “outside” the village centre with a need for pedestrians to walk along the pavements to access amenities. In the past, these narrow pavements were less used because the bulk of residents lived “inside” the High Street/Church Street area, now the opposite is true. The pavements are extremely narrow at the edges of the village, which places pedestrians in danger of coming into contact with vehicles. Pedestrian flow is also significant going out of the village in each direction and importantly, the majority of this foot traffic is to either the primary or secondary school. This places even more vulnerable pedestrians close to passing traffic. For parents with pushchairs, the pavements east and west in and out of the centre of the village are impassable, meaning pedestrians are often forced into the road. Likewise, wheelchair or mobility scooter users must leave the pavement and move onto the road to share it with cars, vans, HGV’s, buses, and large lorries in order to access shops, the schools or their home.</p> <p>The Parish Council have explored the widening of pavements away from the road, however, due to the presence of either listed buildings or walls within the curtilage of listed properties, this is not feasible. The only option is to widen the pavements into the road and reduce the carriageway to a single lane. We recognise there are issues with visibility at each end of the village which mean we risk cars stacking-up and becoming gridlocked if a chicane is introduced at either point. We can mitigate against this by installing traffic control signals to manage the stretches and ensure suitable traffic flow.</p>	<p>The group acknowledged the issue which impacts hundreds of residents. The lack of accesibility for wheelchair / mobility scooter users is a focus for WC.</p> <p>The cost of a substantive bid preparation project is likely to be £10,000-£15,000 which is 30-50% of the group's budget.</p> <p>DM has suggested that the group supports this bid. TR suggested that the AQaST fund might also contribute. DM to provide FD with dates and details of the upcoming AGaST meeting. MLPC to send a representative to pitch the project and try to secure additional funding.</p>	Awaiting Update
New Issue	06-23-09	Market Lavington	The Muddle No Cycling signs	<p>The narrow section of footpath MLAV32 at the end of the Muddle, that runs parallel with the stream has a 'No Cycling' signat one end, but there is no corresponding sign at the other end.</p> <p>The Parish Council would please like to request permission to install a 'No Cycling' sign at the other end of the narrow section of the footpath. Would the LHFIG committee please fund the supply and installation of the sign. The Parish Council understands that it may be required to make a contribution towards the cost.</p>	<p>GR confirmed that this can be picked up by a specific team for implementation with no cost to the LHFIG or MLPC. DM to make contact with Martin Cook and update FD.</p>	Remove

New Issue	06-23-10	Market Lavington	Church Street / The Spring	Speeding and speed awareness has long been an issue in and around Market Lavington, and is something that local residents feel very strongly about.	FD confirmed that CSW is in operation, site visit completed by GR and location for post and socket approved. FD confirmed MLPC contribution. Project moved to High Priority.	High Priority
			Request for SID Infrastructure	<p>There is a large volume of traffic exceeding the speed limit driving through Market Lavington.</p> <p>We now have an active team of Community SpeedWatch volunteers operating at different locations in the village. Back in 2020 the Parish Council purchased and installed a Speed Indicator Device (SID) which is currently sited on Spin Hill, which has proved very effective as a practical and visible way of highlighting speeds of on-coming vehicles, and prompting drivers to adhere to the speed limit. The Parish Council would now like to focus on using a SID at other locations in the village where speeding has been identified as an issue, starting with Church Street / The Spring, and then possibly considering other locations following receipt of Traffic Survey results requested. Could the Parish Council therefore please request permission to install at least one Speed Indicator Device at the end of Church Street, and at other possible locations to be confirmed with LHFIFG. Would the LHFIFG committee please fund the supply and installation of the NAL sockets / posts. The Parish Council understands that it may be required to make a contribution towards the cost</p>		
In Progress	06-21-02	West Lavington	West Lavington Duck Street - Parking restrictions	<p>There have been ongoing parking issues in Duck Street and in particular around Dauntsey's Care Home for a period of time but has become more challenging over the last 6 months. The current inconsiderate parking extends to the end of Duck Street where it meets the main road and therefore at times visibility at the junction is compromised.</p> <p>Relationships between the home and residents has broken down in terms of communication and the impact being that there is inappropriate parking occurring regularly. The parish council receives complaints from residents and also local farmers who are unable to pass through the road to get to their fields. During April a nurse who came to visit the home had her car damaged whilst it was parked in Duck Street.</p>	Public consultation complete - 15 Objections, 13 Support, 3 General Comments. GR confirmed this was standard level of response. Cabinet Member report being drafted	High Priority
High Priority	06-21-09	Bishops Cannings	Bishops Cannings Horton Road Speed Limit Reduction (Priority No. 07)	<p>The current speed limit between the Cannings Hill roundabout and a point just beyond Marlborough Close, is 50mph. Given the built-up nature of the road at this point, the parish council believes that the road should be restricted to 30mph.</p> <p>The 50-mph restriction in question is approximately 737 metres in length. Along this there are 24 streetlamps more or less evenly spaced, so there is an average of approximately 31 metres between them. s.82 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 defines a restricted road as one where "there is provided on it a system of street lighting furnished by means of lamps placed not more than 200 metres apart" and s.81 of the Act states "it shall not be lawful for a person to drive a motor vehicle on a restricted road at speeds exceeding 30-mph."</p> <p>The default position on this stretch of road would therefore be 30-mph, except that Highways have chosen to impose a higher limit.</p> <p>Consultants recommendations have been published with a 40mph recommendation.</p>	Draft proposals and Traffic regulations orders are in preparation. These will be forward for consultation in due course. Estimate TRO advert in January. Copies will be sent to the PC as a statutory Consultee.	High Priority

Awaiting Update	06-22-19	Urchfont	Urchfont The Croft - Dropped Kerb	<p>The Croft has a population of largely elderly residents who have difficulty taking wheelbarrows to the Allotments because of their having to mount a kerb. Access is likewise especially hard for those with mobility scooters and others with prams or buggies.</p> <p>We request that a 'drop kerb' is put in place opposite to the path leading in to the allotments.</p>	<p>The PC has approved a budget contribution.</p> <p>Scheme has been added to 23/24 Programme - Awaiting resource</p>	High Priority
High Priority	06-21-16	Wedhampton	Wedhampton Highstreet - Change to road layout	<p>Very poor visibility when exiting the High Street, Wedhampton from the south east junction with the A342, has resulted in a number of accidents both recently and over the longer term. Traffic travels along the A342 at high speeds, and the bend just north west of the junction obscures any view of oncoming traffic, which makes it an exceptionally dangerous junction, and it is only a matter of time before there is a fatality.</p> <p>I walk from Urchfont across to Wedhampton regularly, and have witnessed the aftermath of two accidents in the last two months.</p> <p>It has been suggested by Wiltshire Councillor Philip Whitehead, that the aforementioned junction should be entrance only into Wedhampton. This can be achieved with One Way signs at the entrance, and corresponding No Entry signs a short way before the current exit from the High Street.</p>	<p>Draft Proposal has been prepared and sent to Parish Council (via PW).</p> <p>Awaiting PC comments / approval of detailed plan before progression of the associated Traffic Regulation Order.</p>	Awaiting Update

Devizes Area Grant Report

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide details of the grant applications made to the Devizes Area Board. These could include:
 - community area grants
 - youth grants
 - older and vulnerable people grants
 - area board initiatives
2. To document any recommendations provided through sub groups.

Area Board Current Financial Position

	Community Area Grants	Youth Grants	Older and Vulnerable People Grants
Opening Balance For 2023/24	£ 25,869.00	£ 22,320.00	£ 7,700.00
Awarded To Date	£ 12,850.00	£ 14,948.65	£ 0.00
Current Balance	£ 13,019.00	£ 7,371.35	£ 7,700.00
Balance if all grants are agreed based on recommendations	£ 5,519.00	£ 5,939.35	£ 7,430.00

Grant Funding Application Summary

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
ABG1304	Community Area Grant	The Patch in Potterne Community Interest Company	The Patch in Potterne Multi Purpose Community Centre	£135000.00	£5000.00

Application Reference	Grant Type	Applicant	Project	Total Cost	Requested
<p>Project Summary: The Patch in Potterne, Wiltshire, is a new initiative to turn the former Potterne village school into a vibrant, community hub to host activities for all ages, including special provision for the vulnerable and those most in need. The commercial value of this building is around £300,000. However, as a community asset the unique opportunity exists to purchase it for just £105,000. This new community regeneration project will breathe new life into the former school building, bring the Potterne community closer together and empower and support a wide variety of people and activities: business, social, cultural and well-being. It will be available for practical skills, physical and mental awareness, creative learning and development. These objectives will be achieved by offering new space for arts, clubs, crafts, exhibitions and health services, so drawing in all sections from the village community. The heart of the centre will be the beautiful tearoom which will also double as a bar for smaller evening events. This area will also be where local craft and artisan traders can display and sell their wares using the cabinets provided. Music and the arts will be part of many activities for local and visiting artists to use the venue as a practice or learning centre. Other uses include a music and book library, a repair shop and a mini-museum of village history.</p>					
ABG1372	Community Area Grant	Busy Kids Nursery	Busy Kids Outdoor Shelter	£4416.00	£2000.00
<p>Project Summary: Our project will be physically improving our existing outdoor space by building a new secure structure (pergola) with secured posts and roof that will create a shaded play area to extend our outside play for babies and young children. This would enable the children to continue their play outside with shade protection from the sun and the rain. Furthermore this will enable local children opportunities to continue to learn and develop new outdoor, physical and social skills in an environment that is accessible. We urgently need to install a suitable safe shelter as our existing structure had become rotten. while it has been temporarily fixed, a new permanent structure is now needed. The new structure will enable both younger and older children to come together in a safe environment regardless of the weather and allow them to continue to explore and have fun. Outdoor learning is a part of every child's development, and with the support from the area board community grant, we will be able to ensure that children have access to a suitable outdoor environment at any point in their day. As a strong community, we believe "it takes a village to raise a child" and we raise funds together throughout the year, however, over the last 2 years, due to the repercussion of the pandemic, shortfall in funding, inflation costs pushing costs and rates up and cost of living crisis, it has slowed considerably and we are now reaching out to you for some needed help. We have established a breakfast, afterschool club and holiday for children who also attend our neighbouring school St Nicholas so this space is used throughout the year from 8am until 6pm for children from 0-11 years. We are the only nursery in the community and this project will have a direct impact within our local community.</p>					
ABG1412	Community Area Grant	Worton and Cheverell Football Club	Worton and Cheverell Football Club Football Goals	£1000.00	£500.00
<p>Project Summary: Worton and Cheverell Football Club are looking for help to raise funds to support the club with its growth. With the recent increased growth of the team, including expansion of the younger age ranges, particularly the girls team and the newly formed women's group, we are short on football goals to allow us to play effectively in our winter training locations. We are looking for £500 to contribute towards the purchase of two new sets of goals for this winter season.</p>					
ABG1400	Older and Vulnerable Adults Funding	Devizes Mens Shed	Devizes Mens Shed First Aid Training	£270.00	£270.00

Project Summary:

The Devizes Mens' Shed has a membership of 37 which includes 4 females. It is open to anyone over the age of 55 years. Our purpose is to improve the mental health of members by providing a meeting place where they can use a wide variety of woodworking tools to make objects of their choice. Some members merely use the Shed as a meeting place to chat with others in a relaxed social environment. We are required by the terms of our lease and our insurance that we have a qualified first aider on site when members are in the Shed using any of the machine or hand tools. I have costed the training at £270 for 4 people which would allow us the flexibility to ensure there is always a first aider present when we meet.

ABG1368	Youth Grant	Devizes Netball Club	Devizes Netball Club Sports Equipment	£2864.00	£1432.00
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Project Summary:

Devizes Netball Club are now seeking grant funds to purchase new netballs, coaching equipment, and bibs for the Junior Section (years 13 and over). Since the pandemic, the junior section has grown, outgrowing their home at Devizes Leisure Centre and now has an extra weekly training at Dauntsey's School. The club would like to grow their junior section but unable to take on new members because of the following: 1. Does not have enough equipment. 2. The equipment is not fit for purpose

Background

3. Area Boards have authority to approve funding under powers delegated to them. Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Funding and Grants Criteria. This document is available on the council's website.
4. Three funding streams are available to the Area Board, each with an annually awarded amount. These funding streams are as follows:
 - Community Area Grants (capital)
 - Youth Grants (revenue)
 - Older and Vulnerable People Grants (revenue)
5. The Area Board will be advised of the funding available prior to their first meeting of each financial year.

Main Considerations

6. Councillors need to be satisfied that the applications meet the requirements as set out in the Area Board Funding and Grants Criteria and that the health and wellbeing and young persons funding guidelines have been adhered to.
7. Councillors must ensure that the distribution of funding is in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation to Area Boards.
8. Councillors need to consider any recommendations made by sub groups of the Area Boards.

Safeguarding Implications

9. The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Public Health Implications

10. The Area Board has ensured that the necessary policies and procedures are in place to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Environmental & Climate Change Implications

11. Grant funding will contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

Financial Implications

12. Councillors must ensure that the Area Board has sufficient funding available to cover the grants awarded.

Legal Implications

13. There are no specific legal implications related to this report.

Workforce Implications

14. There are no specific human resources implications related to this report.

Equalities Implications

15. Community Area Boards must fully consider the equality impacts of their decisions in order to meet the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

16. Community Area Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, Town and Parish Councils equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes where they meet the funding criteria.

Proposals

17. To consider and determine the applications for grant funding.

Report Author

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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

